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Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Chief Begins Visit to UAE, Bahrain

NC0506151895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1357 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Jun (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has announced that his visits to the United Arab Emirates [UAE] and Bahrain will provide opportunities to hold meetings with senior officials and discuss current Arab conditions and important issues in the Middle East.

In remarks to reporters prior to his departure from Cairo Airport for Abu Dhabi today, Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that he will brief UAE and Bahrain officials on recent events, including the suspension of the Arab minisummit.

Concerning inter-Arab reconciliation, the Arab League secretary general asserted that this issue is always under discussion.

Asked about Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' criticism of the Arab League's role, 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Arab League has a pan-Arab duty to perform and Peres can say what he wants.

'Abd-al-Majid noted that the Arab League is a constant source of dismay and worry to others and when Peres or someone else criticizes it, this criticism is a medal of honor for the League.

League Views Christopher's Tour 'With Interest'

NC0606182795 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1804 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—'Adnan 'Imran, Arab League assistant secretary general for political affairs, has declared that the League is looking forward with great interest to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's coming Middle East tour.

In remarks made today, 'Imran said he hopes that there will be a change in Israel's intransigent mentality and that Israel will not place obstacles in the way to foil the U.S. secretary of state's mission or raise issues that are not relevant to the core problem.

'Imran remarked that the sole peace formula is now clear to all international parties, namely UN Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for a full Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Islamic Affairs

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 23 May

NC2805191595

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 23 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Lawyers Association Holds Rally on Jerusalem

2. Rally Held at al-Azhar in Solidarity with Jerusalem
3. Writer Denies Muslim Brotherhood Sponsors Terrorism
4. Al-Ghazali Denounces Russia's Military Action in Chechnya
5. Columnist Discusses Yeltsin's Confrontation With Islam

LAWYERS ASSOCIATION HOLDS RALLY ON JERUSALEM

A 900-word report by Khalid Yunus on page 2 describes a rally for solidarity with Jerusalem held by the Lawyers Association's Political Affairs Committee on 20 May. Addressing the rally, Labor Party Leader Ibrahim Shukri called for an "Islamic summit" on Jerusalem so the world will hear the voice of the Muslims. He further called on the Arab and Islamic states to break the embargo imposed on Iraq, Libya, and Iran.

Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, said the U.S. veto of a Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem has exposed the "false peace" between Israel and some Arab states. The U.S. veto also revealed that the UN is only an "illusion" to "legitimize" the injustice being done in the world. Therefore, the Islamic world should not resort to the UN to air its grievances. He added that the peace talks have produced "surrender agreements" and "concessions" to the extent that Palestinian police have arrested "heroes" from the Islamic Resistance Movement who are fighting the "Zionist" occupation.

Muslim scholar Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali said "the Christian West hates Islam and supports the Jewish occupation of Palestine." He said the only solution is for the Islamic people to return to religion so that the "aggressors" will feel that they will not go unpunished for their "crime." He added that the Muslims must prepare for a "battle" in which they will defend their "dignity" against Zionism and the Christian West. He said the judaization of Jerusalem is a "declaration of war" on the whole Islamic world.

Wafd Party Deputy Leader Dr. Nu'man Jum'ah said the confiscation of land in Jerusalem is a "life or death" issue. He called for cutting Arab ties with the "Zionist enemy," preparing for war with it, and breaking the embargo imposed on Iran and Iraq.

Lawyers Association Secretary General Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna said Israel does not want peace with the Arabs; instead it wants their "humiliation," and "surrender."

RALLY HELD AT AL-AZHAR IN SOLIDARITY WITH JERUSALEM

A 1,000-word report by 'Amir 'Abd-al-Mun'im and Yusuf Sa'd on page 3 highlights a rally in solidarity with Jerusalem held after the 19 May Friday prayers at al-Azhar Mosque in Cairo. Addressing the rally, Labor Party leader Ibrahim Shukri criticized the United States for vetoing a Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its confiscation of Arab land in East Jerusalem. Shukri said "a handful of Jews are manipulating the U.S. Government. All U.S. officials, be they Republicans or Democrats, are competing to appease Israel." He added that the United States must pay a "high price" for its "sin and for its disregard of the Arabs and Muslims." Shukri called on the Egyptian Government to sever diplomatic relations with Israel and to halt the normalization process. He also called on the government to "dispense with" U.S. aid, with which the United States is trying to buy "stands, decisions, and consciences." He argued that if every Egyptian citizen eats one quarter of a loaf of bread less each day, we will be able to dispense with this "trifle" with which the United States wants to "humiliate" Egypt. Shukri maintained that U.S. aid has not resulted in any useful projects but has fostered among the citizens certain consumption patterns that do not benefit the economy, such as popularizing hamburger sandwiches and Pepsi-Cola.

Muslim Brotherhood representative Ahmad Sayf-al-Islam Hasan al-Banna said Israel's confiscation of Arab land in Jerusalem has united the Islamic nation and set off a tidal wave of anger. He called on the Egyptian Government to "reconsider" its relations with the United States. He said: "We must stand up to the United States and not be afraid of it. If the United States believes it is the strongest state in the world, we say 'Allah Akbar.' God, who crushed the Soviet Union in a matter of days, is able to crush the United States."

Liberal Party Leader Mustafa Kamil Murad said the "U.S. Administration and the opposition Republican Party are competing to please Israel. The United States is embracing Israel and the opposition party is pushing the U.S. Administration to move its embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem." He added that the "plan has become clear and does not need explanation. They want to make us their slaves through their suspect clubs which have sprouted up around the world and which include a large number of Egyptian intellectuals." He called for "boycotting" U.S. goods.

WRITER DENIES MUSLIM BROTHERHOOD SPONSORS TERRORISM

A 1,000-word article by Dr. 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Ghazali on page 5 says the regime's proteges and writers insist on accusing the Muslim Brotherhood [MB] of sponsoring terrorism and of rejecting a multiparty system. He adds that the regime's sole aim is to "usurp power" and deprive the MB of its "legitimate right" to participate in political life. The writer says the MB is innocent of these "false" charges. He stresses that the MB rejects all "terrorist acts" "regardless of their source" and accepts "democracy and pluralism" "within the general principles of Islam." Al-Ghazali describes the political system in Egypt as "primitive." This system honors the principles of democracy and freedom in name only, while in fact it is dictatorial and repressive. The regime allows legislative elections but then rigs them. The regime uses social justice as its motto while the ordinary individual faces various form of exploitation.

AL-GHAZALI CRITICIZES RUSSIA'S MILITARY ACTION IN CHECHNYA

In 250-word article on page 12, entitled "This is Our Religion," Shaykh Muhammad al-Ghazali describes the current "desperate" fighting between the Russians and Chechens as "unequal and unjust." He says an "outnumbered" and "outgunned" people are fighting another people 70 times more numerous and stronger. He says "this is the nature of Islamic jihad" where profits and losses do not matter as long as the aim is to uphold the principles of Islam. Shaykh al-Ghazali says both the "white czars and the red czars share the same hatred of Islam." He asks why the Islamic world is maintaining a "cowardly silence" about Russia's "crimes." "Why doesn't it expose the murderers?" he asks.

COLUMNIST DISCUSSES YELTSIN'S CONFRONTATION WITH ISLAM

In a 300-word column on page 9 entitled "Yeltsin Confronts Islam," Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah says Russian President Boris Yeltsin has called for confronting the "Islamization" of Central Asia. 'Arafah says Yeltsin's remarks follow by one month similar remarks by the U.S. Secretary of Defense and the NATO secretary general, who warned against the dangers of "Islamic fundamentalism." He adds that Yeltsin's remarks are more serious because Russia considers itself responsible for the security of the Islamic republics in the former Soviet Union. 'Arafah says the Russian intelligence services believe there are great dangers from the revival of Islam in the Central Asian republics. Therefore, it is cooperating with the intelligence bodies of other states, including American, to contain and strike at the Islamic awakening in these republics.

Political Islam Review: AL-SHA'B 26 May

NC0106112395

[FBIS Editorial Report] The following is a comprehensive review of all items in the 26 May edition of the Arabic-language newspaper AL-SHA'B that pertain to political Islamic issues.

CONTENTS:

1. Liberation of Jerusalem Urged, Reversal of Land Grab Viewed

2. Human Rights Organization Notes Continued Violations
3. Security Forces Arrests Islamist Candidate, Preacher
4. Court Nullifies University Dismissal of Islamist Students
5. Writer Views Alleged EU Plan To Intervene Against Islamists

LIBERATION OF JERUSALEM URGED, REVERSAL OF LAND GRAB VIEWED

The 26 issue of AL-SHA'B features various reports and comments on Jerusalem in light of Israel's suspension of its decision to expropriate Arab land in the city and the resulting Arab decision to suspend a planned minisummit.

—An 800-word editorial on page 1 maintains that the battle for Jerusalem has begun and will not stop before the city is liberated. Saying that Arabs and Muslims scored a "partial moral victory" when they forced the "Zionist-American alliance" to suspend the land confiscation decision, the editorial warns that this victory may turn into "a crushing defeat and total loss of Jerusalem" if we delude ourselves into thinking that the issue is now over. Casting doubts on Israel's intentions, the editorial reminds readers of Israel's history of expansion and tactical tricks. "The Zionist project managed to swallow up Palestine only through a series of maneuvers," it says. It says the issue is not the reversal of the Israeli decision, but the fact that Jerusalem has been occupied for 28 years. It contends that Israel will completely Judaize the city before its future is discussed in the 1996 negotiations.

The editorial urges Arabs and Muslims to keep the current popular momentum over Jerusalem. It says: "The Jerusalem awakening, which was staged from al-Azhar, will not abate. Let Jerusalem re-occupy its right place among the concerns of Muslims. It is their honor, pride, and dignity, and it is a test to their true belief in God, his prophet, and the day of judgment." The editorial urges establishing popular committees to defend Jerusalem and calls on Mosque preachers to discuss the city and the importance of jihad in their Friday sermons. It says popular committees on Jerusalem should apply pressure on rulers, resist all forms of normalization with Israel until the occupied city is liberated, and confront U.S. attempts to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

The editorial also criticizes the Arab leaders for canceling a planned minisummit on Jerusalem: These leaders "are selling out their unity in return for the Israeli suspension decision, or, indeed, the temporary postponement decision."

—An unattributed 200-word report on page 8 cites a statement by the Muslim Brotherhood criticizing the suspension of the Arab minisummit on Jerusalem and calling on Arab and Muslim leaders to hold an urgent meeting "to discuss the imminent Zionist threat to holy Jerusalem." The statement reportedly says that the Islamic world was astonished at the summit cancellation decision under the pretext that Israel suspended its land seizure. The statement maintains that Israel made the decision because of domestic considerations, and it notes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statement that he is prepared to defy the whole world over the land confiscation decision.

—A 1,500-word page-2 report by Subhi Buhayri on a seminar on Jerusalem organized by the Labor Party at Madinat al-Nasr on 23 May cites speakers as calling for the liberation of Jerusalem and the establishment of a people's Jerusalem committee. AL-AHRAR Chief Editor Mustafa Bakri is cited as telling the audience that "the U.S. Administration was very concerned with the proposed summit on the confiscation of new lands in Jerusalem, and it pressured Israel to suspend the decision to foil the summit." Bakri adds that Israel will find a thousand ways to revive the confiscation decision. "Therefore," he goes on, "I stress that our efforts for the liberation of Jerusalem must not stop." AL-SHA'B Chief Editor Majdi Ahmad Husayn reportedly agrees that the suspension of the land confiscation decision was meant to foil the Arab summit. He calls for an end to Egyptian oil exports to Israel and urges Arab reconciliation, violation of embargoes against Iraq and Libya, and "reconciliation" between the Egyptian Government and the Islamic trend in Egypt.

—A 1,200-word report by Mahmud Bakri on pages 1 and 2 cites a plan prepared by an Israeli engineer to control Jerusalem completely by the year 2000. The plan reportedly calls for continued building of settlements and for reducing the number of Arabs in the city.

Introducing the plan, the writer maintains that Israel's suspension of the land expropriation decision "is nothing more than a maneuver and an act of deception."

In a 500-word article on page 12, Mahmud Bakri determines that Israel's decision to suspend land confiscation "is nothing more than a temporary tactic aimed at saving the Israeli Government from collapse and aborting the Arab moves, which clearly began to escalate at popular and official levels, especially after the active forces of the nation, notably the Labor Party, began invoking Muslims to rush to defend their holy places and beat off the enemies of God and the homeland." He says that "criminal" America pressured the Arab leaders to go back on their planned minisummit, and he laments the fact that the Arab leaders "fell into the trap of Jewish slyness."

—In part of his 5,000-word article on page 5, 'Adil Husayn, the Labor Party secretary general, says the U.S. veto of a UN Security Council draft resolution on Jerusalem was "the climax of defiance to our religion." He says the U.S. Administration deals with most of the Arab leaders as dead bodies. He says the suspension of the land confiscation decision was a maneuver by Israel and the United States to buy time for further taming of the Arab leaders so that the plan to completely Judaize Jerusalem can be implemented without problems and without Arab summits.

—Page 8 contains the 180-word text of a protest memorandum presented by Labor Party representatives to officials at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo over the U.S. use of veto to block a Security Council draft resolution on Jerusalem. The memorandum expresses regret and shock at the veto and warns of moves by the Egyptian people against U.S.-Egyptian relations.

—An unattributed 1,000-word report on pages 1 and 8 cites a statement by the al-Azhar imam in which he assails the U.S. policy over the use of veto and calls for preparations to confront Israel.

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION NOTES CONTINUED VIOLATIONS

An unattributed 400-word article on pages 1 and 8 cites the latest report of the Egyptian Human Rights Organization [EHRO] as saying that human rights violations continue in Egypt. The EHRO report says complaints of torture and ill treatment in police stations and of bad conditions in prisons were received. The report says beatings and use of tear gas and police dogs in inspection security campaigns inside prisons leave many inmates injured. The report also notes bans on visits to some prisons by their families and lawyers. It says amendments to political rights laws "lacked in many guarantees that ensure the integrity and neutrality of the election process."

On the other hand, the EHRO report "holds the armed Islamic groups greatly responsible for deliberate killings and physical liquidation of police officers and assistants, foreign tourists, and some Coptic citizens." The report says that the confrontation between the government and the armed Islamic groups "is still leading the country toward further violations that threaten the entire human rights regime." The report explains that according to information available to the EHRO, some 279 people were killed in the acts of violence in 1994, 35 percent more than in 1993.

SECURITY FORCES ARREST ISLAMIST CANDIDATE, PREACHER

An unattributed 50-word report on page 8 says the security forces in Alexandria have for the fourth time arrested Midhat al-Haddad, candidate of the Islamic trend for the Consultative Council elections, while campaigning in the city. The report also says that the security forces arrested Islamic preacher Wajdi Ghunaym from his house and moved him to Cairo.

Another unattributed 80-word report on the same page says that the security forces prevented Khalid al-Za'farani, Labor Party candidate for the upcoming Consultative Council elections, from moving in his constituency because he raised the slogan "Islam Is the Solution" on his election leaflets.

COURT NULLIFIES UNIVERSITY DISMISSAL OF ISLAMIST STUDENTS

An unattributed 100-word report on page 8 says the Administrative Law court in Tanta has issued "a new, historic judicial ruling" in favor of students from the Islamic trend. The court ruled that three decisions dismissing a number of Islamist student leaders from al-Munufiyah University for various university terms must not be implemented.

WRITER VIEWS ALLEGED EU PLAN TO INTERVENE AGAINST ISLAMISTS

A 500-word article by columnist Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah on page 9 terms as "extremely serious" an alleged plan by the EU to establish a military unit "for rapid intervention in the Arab countries where Islamists succeed in reaching power." The writer, who cites THE FINANCIAL TIMES on this unit, says the plan "represents preparation for an imminent invasion of some Arab countries (especially Algeria) to stop the growing activity of the Islamists and abort any plans for them to assume power." The writer concludes: "It is clear that the decision has its secrets and hidden facts, but it seems that Europe, and the West in general, do not learn from their mistakes!"

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Reportedly Planning To End Armed Struggle

NC0706070695 Paris AFP in English 0625 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, June 7 (AFP) — The hardline Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) plans to announce an official end to its armed struggle against Israel and become a political party, fundamentalist sources told Wednesday's [7 June] AL-HAYAH newspaper.

Hamas would also join the PLO-led autonomous authority in line with the wishes of its jailed leader Shaykh Ahmad Yasin, the sources told the London-based Arabic newspaper which is published in several Arab capitals.

The radical Palestinian group, which is fighting the PLO-Israel peace process, is to announce its transformation from an armed group to a political party within a few days in the autonomous region of Gaza, the sources said.

"Hamas leaders received a letter from Shaykh Yasin calling for the implementation of such resolutions," the sources said.

Israel and the PLO are trying to meet a July 1 dateline for agreement on holding Palestinian self-rule elections.

Hamas Leader Denies Report

JN0706104795 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Hamas [Islamic Movement] leader has denied reports published by AL-HAYAH today that the movement's military wing will be dissolved and that Hamas will become a political party.

Shaykh Ahmad Bahr described these reports as slanderous and false.

AL-HAYAH cited fundamentalist sources in Beirut as saying that Hamas will announce in a few days that it will stop military operations, dissolve its military wing, and join the National Authority.

Hamas Seen Recruiting Arabs With Israeli Papers

TA0606171495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 6 Jun 95 p 9

[Article by Hanan Schlein: "Wanted: Hamas Activists With Blue Identity Cards"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The military wing of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is today closer than ever to Temple Mount. Up to a year ago, Israeli security officials thought the "soldiers" of Islam could be stopped at the city's outskirts. The recent exposure of dozens of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam activists in East Jerusalem shows that the situation has changed.

Below the Old City walls, not far from the Lion Gate, there is a Muslim cemetery with hundreds of gray tombstones close to each other. One of them is the grave of Hasan al-Natshah, one of the killers of the late Nahshon Wachsman. Al-Natshah lived in the Ra's al-'Amud neighborhood overlooking Temple Mount.

Nine months ago, when it was learned that two of Wachsman's killers lived in East Jerusalem, Israeli security officials hoped 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam had only managed to recruit a few individuals. They were particularly apprehensive about tightening relations between Hamas activists in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip on the one hand and Arabs in East Jerusalem and in Israel on the other.

Two days ago, when the capture of 45 Hamas members was announced, their apprehension proved true. The East Jerusalem neighborhoods are well represented in the list of names. The founders of these cells initially made contact with 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam headquarters in Gaza, but the recruitment of additional members became less complicated than it was until a year ago.

In the course of the intifadah Hamas stretched its long tentacles into East Jerusalem. Most of their activities focused on social issues. Just as they did in Judaea and Samaria, they opened charity institutions in the city which provided the people with services free of charge. The leaders of Hamas knew that if they took advantage of the dire economic situation they would manage to bring many Arab residents of East Jerusalem into the fold who would in the future agree to fight for them.

"Nobody in East Jerusalem is surprised by the recent arrests of residents of al-Tur, the Old City, Ra's al-'Amud, or Sur Bahir. The formula is simple and the time has come for you Israelis to learn it: People go where the money is," that is how a resident of Silwan described the situation in the city. "Each month Hamas pays 50 dinars to the family of 'Azzam in Silwan, who was arrested a year ago on suspicion that he was a member of Hamas.

In contrast, not only does the Palestinian Authority not pay any money to the families of prisoners, but it does not even help them find work."

When talking about the activities of terror organizations, it is hard to differentiate between the territories and East Jerusalem. Large family clans with relatives in the West Bank and Gaza live within the Old City walls and to the east of them. In the last one and a half years Palestinian residents of East Jerusalem with Israeli identity cards have become the targets of Hamas' military wing. First it was the closure on Jerusalem that created the demand for the blue documents, and later it was the pressure of the residents of Gaza, Judaea, and Samaria.

These documents enable their bearers to pass Israeli army roadblocks around Jerusalem almost freely, without having their vehicles or belongings checked. Moreover, they can drive around in cars bearing yellow license plates [reserved for Israelis] without arousing any suspicion, both on Yafo Street in downtown Jerusalem or on Dizengoff Street in Tel Aviv.

Hamid Yarmur, one of the most wanted men in the Judaea district who was involved in the murder of several Israelis, was killed last Friday in Hebron. A blue identity card was found on his body. The Yarmur family clan has a big presence in East Jerusalem. When Hamid was killed, his father was in Tel Aviv. The father used to live in Jerusalem but moved to Hebron after he remarried.

Another reason for Hamas' attempts to recruit a growing number of Israeli Arabs to its ranks could be gleaned from the words of a resident of Hebron who called on the bereaved family: "Hamid Yarmur participated in the killing of Israelis in the Hebron area. Each time he operated there, a curfew was clamped on the city. We, the laborers, were forced to stay at home without work, while his father, who had an Israeli identity card, came in and out as he pleased."

The dire economic situation in the territories and Gaza led turned the people against Hamas. Thousands of families who did not receive aid had nowhere to go. This was particularly evident in Gaza after the attempt to blow up a bomb truck in Beersheba. This event led to the closure of the border crossings into Israel, and in effect to an almost total paralysis of the Gaza Strip.

"Even trucks were not allowed to cross into Israel, and truck drivers used to be at the top of the pyramid of thousands of laborers who made a living in Israel," explains 'Isam al-Huli, a businessman in the Gaza Strip who has ties with Israelis.

The economic crisis led to pressure on the leaders of Hamas to stop terrorist attacks from within the boundaries of the autonomy and the territories. Palestinian sources said that the leaders of Hamas could not ignore the feelings of the man-in-the-street and decided to halt the military activities from those areas for a certain period of time. The pressure from the street was yet another reason for recruiting residents of East Jerusalem to Hamas.

Even if the current investigation shows that this was just a group of a few dozen Hamas activists who were caught "at an advanced stage of preparing terrorist attacks," the fact that they all held blue identity cards would seem to indicate that Hamas decided to step up the ongoing struggle against Israel. No longer local recruits within the boundaries of Jerusalem (as were the killers of the late Nahshon Wachsman), but concentrated activities ultimately aimed at reaching al-Aqsa Mosque.

People in East Jerusalem say that Israel played a considerable role in enlisting the population for Hamas. "Your decision to expropriate land in the city only heightened the struggle. Mosque clerics wisely took advantage of the land expropriation to recruit new 'soldiers' willing to get killed and become 'martyrs.' Therefore, even if the Shin Bet captured 45 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam activists in Jerusalem, I have no doubt that Hamas will easily manage to recruit another 4,500 bearers of blue identity cards to replace them," a local resident said.

Brotherhood Denounces Deportation of Hamas Leaders

JN0606135295 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 5 Jun 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Amman, Damascus — Sadness prevailed over Queen Alia International Airport last Wednesday [31 May] during the heart-rending farewell given to Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the political bureau of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and 'Imad al-'Alami, a Hamas Political Bureau member, before they left Jordan in implementation of a deportation order. [passage omitted]

AL-MAJD sources in Damascus said that Abu-Muhammad Mustafa, the Hamas representative in Damascus, and several leaders of the 10 Palestinian factions have asked the Syrian officials to welcome Abu-Marzuq and al-'Alami.

The 10 Palestinian factions sources said that Damascus has said it is ready to receive the two deported leaders and their families, grant them permanent residence permits, and have their children join Syrian schools.

The sources told AL-MAJD that the Syrian officials refused to shroud this matter with secrecy, saying that

Syria is completely free in formulating its policies and that no one can decide Syria's policies or its alliances.

On the same level, AL-MAJD has also learned that Baghdad, Tehran, Sanaa, and Khartoum have stated they are ready to welcome the two deported leaders but that, for many considerations, the two leaders opted for Damascus.

On the other hand, Hamas sources denied [Jordanian Foreign Minister] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti's statement that Abu-Marzuq and al-'Alami had carried out acts in violation of the Jordanian law. The sources said that the two leaders did not commit any violations during their stay in Jordan, and that their deportation was for political reasons, recalling what Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin- Shakir had told Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan a few weeks ago that Abu-Marzuq and al-'Alami did not commit any single violation.

For its part, the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan has issued a strongly-worded statement of denunciation against the backdrop of the deportation of the two Hamas leaders. The statement says: The mujahidin, and those who have a mission and a message to carry out realize that their destiny is to face difficulties, challenges, and enemies. They believe that deportation, constant travel, imprisonment, and martyrdom are basic elements of jihad and liberation. They, however, are perplexed by some Arab countries which cannot suffer their presence on their territory and do not allow them to utter a word, issue a statement against their enemy, hold meetings, or carry out any other political and media activity although they have not reneged any pledge they made, or harmed those they deal with. This was the case of the two Hamas leaders, Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq and Engineer 'Imad al-'Alami during their stay in Jordan.

Such a measure makes one convinced that the Arabs who signed treaties and agreements with the Jewish enemy under the canopy of its hegemony on the region and the complete tipping of the balance in its favor will pay the price for accepting these agreements in terms of subservience, submission, corruption, and chaos in the society and the state.

Why leaders of the usurper enemy are being warmly welcomed and safely stroll in the streets of Amman while the mujahidin are being deported? The harassment of the Islamic Movement, in general and Hamas, in particular, as a vanguard movement which resists the enemy in Palestine means relieving the enemy of a genuine resistance force that checks its hegemony and intransigence, and its attempt to sow corruption in the region. This also weakens the forces of steadfastness, stability, and resurgence in the nation.

The statement adds: While denouncing this measure, the Muslim Brotherhood asks the government to reconsider this and other similar decisions. It also emphasizes the danger of besieging the Islamic movement, and calls against weakening the factors of steadfastness and cohesion, and the forces of confrontation of the enemy. The Muslim Brotherhood emphasizes the need to fulfill the people's aspirations by having Islamic law prevail, not to mention dignity, loftiness, justice, unity, and the protection of the homeland against seditions, and subservience.

The Muslim Brotherhood calls on the Arab masses and honest forces to confront normalization with the enemy and subservience to it, and to protect their struggler sons, and support the Jihad movements, particularly in Palestine, with all their means. The mujahidin should also pursue their blessed jihad and should not give in to pressure and obstacles. God's land is vast. If the governments which have submitted to the enemy's pressure cannot suffer their presence, then the people will adopt and protect them as they genuinely voice the people's hopes, feelings, and they are the ones on whom the people pin their hopes and trust.

Al-Shaqaqi, 'Awdah Differ on Islamic Jihad 'Split'

MM0606132795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jun 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by 'Ali Nun: "Al-Shaqaqi: No Split in Jihad; 'Awdah: Movement Does Not Belong to One Person"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus — Dr. Fathi al-Shaqaqi, secretary general of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine believes that the movement is targeted by "an international, regional, and local plan to contain it and hit it because it is seen as a major obstacle in the way of the U.S.-Zionist plot to liquidate the Palestinian cause."

In an interview with AL-HAYAH in his office in Damascus, he said that those behind the recent clamor about the movement's internal situation "either have their own personal reasons or are linked to some other organs." He declared that "there is no split in the movement, and all those whose names appeared in the media are outside the Islamic Jihad Movement."

Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Awdah, considered to be the movement's "guide and steering figure," whom AL-HAYAH interviewed at his home also in Damascus, was clear, however, in maintaining that those who are in disagreement with Dr. al-Shaqaqi "are among the most important pillars and main leaders of the Islamic Jihad Movement." He pointed out that al-Shaqaqi, "regrettably, did not heed our advice and our guidance on this matter," and that the measures taken against one of them "were not taken by majority, consensus, or even shura [consultation], and I personally take this opportunity to declare that I do not recognize their legitimacy at all."

Shaykh 'Awdah said that the Jihad Movement "does not belong to one person and it is not right or correct to confine its struggle and the struggle of its people to one person or group." He said that "the Islamic Jihad Movement was the hope of the Palestinians at home and of many Muslims abroad...but what is happening now is sad. We feel our hearts torn apart as we speak."

Dr. al-Shaqaqi denied any agreement with the Palestinian National Authority [PNA]. He said: "We are in complete conflict with the Oslo team and the Oslo authority, and military action in Palestine is continuing. In the past period we carried out operations we did not announce. Soon you will also hear about operations inside Palestine." He also emphasized that the Jihad Movement had nothing to do with any security incident in the West, "and we challenge anyone to prove otherwise."

While al-Shaqaqi said that Iran is not providing military aid for the movement and that "the material aid is restricted to humanitarian aid for the families of the martyrs and the wounded," Shaykh 'Awdah stressed that "Iran spares no effort to support the movement materially and morally."

'Awdah also said: "We receive no aid from Libya and we have no links with the Libyans." But al-Shaqaqi said: "We visit Libya from time to time, we express solidarity with it against the current blockade, and we participate in some seminars."

Adviser on Cabinet Meeting, Israel, U.S. Attitudes

JN0606153695 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Marwan Kanafani, political adviser to Yasir 'Arafat, in Jericho, by Ibrahim Milhim, in the studio, from the "Today's Events" program — live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Milhim] Marwan, good afternoon.

[Kanafani] Good afternoon.

[Milhim] What are the major topics tackled by today's meeting of the Council of Ministers?

[Kanafani] The council held a routine meeting in Jericho today under the chairmanship of the president. It discussed the president's recent visits, as well as steps by Palestinian diplomacy to counter Israel's intransigence and its attempts to delay the implementation of the second stage of the agreement. The council also discussed other subjects on its agenda.

[Milhim] Marwan, the city of Jericho will witness major political activity in coming days. How do you view that activity in light of the 1 July deadline?

[Kanafani] I see it as a preparation for the deadline, which, as you know, has been delayed by Israel for a long time. We all know that the deadline should have been met last year. However, the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] wants to be ready, and as we know that it is able and also willing to take over responsibilities and powers in all areas as part of the implementation of the second stage. The powers include the extension of the PNA to the rest of the occupied Palestinian territories and the redeployment of the occupation forces so that the Palestinian people can hold the long- awaited elections.

[Milhim] Marwan, there are strong indications in Janin and Bethlehem that the transfer of these two areas to the National Authority [NA] has become imminent. Have you anything about that?

[Kanafani] There is no doubt that right will finally prevail, namely, the withdrawal of the Israeli forces in accordance with the agreement, to which we are sticking because it is the decisive factor in relations between the two sides. The agreement was negotiated, reviewed, endorsed, and kept as an international document. It will have to be implemented exactly and honestly. I am not going to mention specific places, but we hope, as the president said, that the deadline this time will be serious and that each side will shoulder its responsibility and implement the agreement.

[Milhim] Is the Authority fully ready to deploy in the West Bank?

[Kanafani] As you know, the Authority is not only ready, but is also willing and able to shoulder its responsibilities.

[Milhim] Marwan, there is a very positive U.S. assessment of the role of the NA in preserving peace. How do you view that U.S. position?

[Kanafani] I see it as a true reflection of what is taking place on the ground, regardless of the campaign of lies against the NA. Yesterday, I read the U.S. State Department's report. You know I was in Washington last week. We neither seek nor reject the report that the PNA is shouldering its full responsibilities and that it knows its duties toward its people and homeland and toward the Palestinian people's aspirations.

[Milhim] Do you believe that this positive U.S. stand is a beginning of U.S. action in light of Christopher's upcoming tour of the region?

[Kanafani] I am not optimistic about U.S. action, its circumstances, and its ability to pressure any side, particularly Israel, to implement the agreement quickly and honestly. As I have said, the U.S. State Department's report is a true picture of the situation on the ground. We should thank U.S. State Department officials, who have honestly conveyed the reality without distorting it. [passage omitted]

'Arafat's Position Within PLO Viewed

MS0606105195 London THE GUARDIAN in English 6 Jun 95 p 13

[Report by David Hirst: "'Arafat's Enemies Within"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ayn al-Hulwah refugee camp, Sidon — Ayn al-Hulwah is the largest surviving outpost of PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat's Revolution, last fiefdom of a Palestine-in-exile where, though surrounded by the Lebanese army, his erstwhile guerrillas retain their weapons and their untrammelled control. A former 'Arafat satrap, Munir , Islamist, bearded and austere, is their formidable commander. A stalwart of Fatah, the origin resistance group, he still believes in its founding doctrine of "complete liberation". A man of few words, he makes it quite clear that, for him, 'Arafat is a traitor, that Gaza is a time bomb which will explode in his face and that, using his influence inside 'Arafat's police force, he himself can help trigger the explosion, and exploit its incalculable consequences.

He almost never leaves the safety of the camp. But he was recently in Beirut for the first time in a decade. He had two very important appointments with Faruq Qaddumi (Abu-al-Luft), one of the three surviving founders of Fatah, the PLO's "foreign minister" and natural rallying-point for Palestinian allegiance. At 'Arafat's expense, should he care to make himself one, and with 'Abbas Zaki (Abu-Ghunaym), one of half a dozen second-generation Fatah leaders who, if they acted collectively and decisively, could oblige 'Arafat to heed them — or blow up his claim to leadership. Given the magnitude of the role now vested in his deeply flawed and fragile person, they could blow up what is left of the crumbling peace process with him.

Heavyweights such as Qaddumi and Zaki — "the Abus" as they are sometimes irreverently known — are under growing pressure to take such a fateful decision. Nothing shows it like their dalliance with a rebel and outcast such as Miqdah. Everywhere, Palestinians are shedding the hopes they placed in Oslo. They see 'Arafat negotiating from a position of impossible weakness, wantonly throwing away the legitimacy enshrined in UN resolutions, destroying the one great institution; the PLO, in which they found an identity and a national voice, and without which they would be back to the political fragmentation and leaderlessness that followed the Calamity of 1948.

'Arafat must either mend his ways or go. Such convictions grow. But how? At one extreme a doughty puritan like Miqdah would take the struggle back to Fatah first principles of "complete liberation" and "armed struggle". At the other are those such as Zaki who, once of Miqdah's untainted beliefs, are accommodators now, but not yet abject capitulators. They claim to believe that 'Arafat chastened and controlled, could still lead his people into the promised land, or into the pale, truncated shadow of it which, in their weariness and acknowledged defeat, most Palestinians would accept — if only the Israeli victors could find the little portion of magnanimity, of self-serving wit, to confer it on them.

Neither extreme appeals to such a free-thinking doyen of the Palestinian struggle as Shafiq al-Hut, PLO ambassador to Lebanon and member of a new opposition group called the National Coalition. "We have concluded," he says, "that 'Arafat is simply irreformable. There is no alternative to the PLO. But how can we rescue this organisation now hostage to him and Gaza? We must get him to choose between leading his National Authority or leading the PLO. The two roles are fundamentally contradictory.

"It is high time this Fatah bunch (he means potentially rebellious Abus like Qaddumi and Zaki), who say they are against Oslo, told him to resign. They must call a meeting of prominent Palestinians, who declare themselves the provisional PLO leadership, and summon the Palestine National Council (parliament-in-exile) and elect a new chairman and executive committee. That way, we wouldn't need fresh recognition from any quarter. 'Arafat could continue to run his National Authority — and let the 'inside' judge his performance. But we on the 'outside' would represent the higher Palestinian strategies — self-determination, return of refugees, etc."

Such opposition groups are springing up everywhere. However divergent, they all agree that the reform or removal of 'Arafat is a sine qua non and that the least dangerous way to achieve it is for the Abus to move first. The Abus are going through agonies of vacillation, repudiating Oslo but forever giving it "another chance", cursing 'Arafat but appeasing him, endorsing negotiations but threatening a new Intifada or even a revival of armed struggle. They fear that if they go "inside" 'Arafat will swallow them even as he heaps grateful favour on them, but if they stay "outside", in perpetual but ineffectual dissent, they will lose what clout they retain. They contemplate, and recoil from, that final break with a discredited chief to whom they are bound in a hundred subtle ways, or with a decadent caste where they have their cosy, rewarding place.

Each knows that his own status and niche in history hang in the balance. Two months ago, 'Abbas Zaki betrayed something of his inner turmoil: "We were all surprised by Oslo. But I said to myself that if 'Arafat can achieve just 10 per cent of Fatah's original programme I'll let him be. But now he tells us he has achieved nothing, and can achieve nothing. It's a situation leading to bloodshed and massacre. Don't believe those who say they no longer believe in armed struggle. They do. 'Arafat must go back to his people, his institutions, the Arabs, the UN. Otherwise there will be an explosion in Fatah."

There was no explosion when the key Fatah Central Committee met in Tunis last week. But another critical date looms, the July 1 deadline for Israeli-Palestinian agreement on extending autonomy to the West Bank. The deadline is unlikely to be met, and then, perhaps, the Abus will take the fateful decision so many wish on them.

In his 'Ayn al-Hulwah lair, surrounded by Kalashnikovs and comrades more talkative than he, the taciturn Miqdah seems serenely confident that the future will once again be his. If the Abus do move, he will support them. If they don't, he has his Gaza "timebomb". With 'Arafat on the brink of total bankruptcy and unable to pay a police force of dubious loyalty it could explode sooner than even he expects.

Negotiations on Displaced To Resume in Beersheba

JN0706090495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Negotiations on the repatriation of the displaced Palestinians will resume in Beersheba today with the participation of Palestine, Jordan, Egypt, and Israel.

At a meeting in Amman yesterday, the Arab countries agreed to adopt a joint stand at the meeting with the Israeli side.

Badr Hamam, secretary general of the Egyptian Foreign Ministry, told the press that documents substantiating the stands of the Palestinian negotiator on the number of those who were displaced in 1967 will be presented to the Israelis.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Transfer of Power Talks Continue in Cairo

Israeli Delegation Arrives

NC0606153095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—An Israeli delegation led by Uri Shamir, adviser at the Israeli Defense Ministry [name and title as received], arrived here this evening to take part in a new round of Palestinian-Israeli peace talks scheduled to be held later this evening. The delegation includes 19 civilian and military officials.

Negotiations Begin

NC0606171195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—The second round of Palestinian-Israeli talks on the transfer of civilian powers from the Israeli to the Palestinian side opened this evening. The Palestinian side is being led by lawyer Jamil al-Tarifi, official in charge of the Palestinian-Israeli relations in the Palestinian National Authority, while the Israeli side is being led by Uri Shamir, official in charge of the Civilian Administration in the occupied West Bank [name and title as received].

Palestinian sources have stated that during this round the negotiators will resume discussion on the transfer of the telecommunications and labor powers to the Palestinian side. The same sources added that major differences in views still exist between the two sides due to Israel's intransigence and the numerous obstacles it creates, particularly concerning financial matters related to the transfer of telecommunications powers, something that almost led to the collapse of the previous round of talks.

The sources added that the Israeli intransigence is not in line with the Israeli Government's commitment to complete the transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians and to reach an agreement on the Palestinian legislative elections by 1 July.

Sides Agree on Early Empowerment Issue

TA0606182995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A development in the Cairo talks: This evening, Israel and the Palestinians agreed to discuss early empowerment in Judaea and Samaria in all areas, and not in stages as was agreed upon so far. To this end, the parties set up technical teams that will do most of their work in Israel starting next week.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the decision was made on the political level and that, in fact, Israel accepted the Palestinian demand.

Optimism Expressed About 'Quick' Results

NC0606194595 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1927 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA)—Palestinian and Israeli negotiators involved in talks over the transfer of civilian powers to the Palestinians have expressed optimism that they will reach quick results in the current negotiations.

The two delegations said that new positions surfaced during the round of talks that began in Cairo this evening.

Head of the Palestinian delegation Jamil al-Tarifi said: We are trying to complete the discussion that we began in an earlier round about the transfer of several powers in the West Bank to the Palestinians.

Al-Tarifi said he hopes an agreement will be reached to transfer eight powers to the Palestinians before the end of June and that the transfer of the remaining powers will be discussed after that date.

He added that the Israelis have accepted the Palestinian wish to expedite the transfer of powers.

Jamil al-Tarifi said that holding Palestinian legislative elections, the redeployment of Israeli troops to locations outside Palestinian towns and villages, and the transfer of powers must be linked together and move at the same time.

In his turn, the head of the Israeli delegation to the talks announced that certain powers have already been transferred to the Palestinians and discussions are under way to transfer the rest. He said that the two delegations are doing their best to achieve that.

He added that an agreement has been reached on how to solve the dispute between the Palestinian Authority and the Israeli communications company, Pazek [name as received]. He noted that the two delegations will resume their meetings later tonight and tomorrow to discuss the transfer of further powers. He said that further meetings will be held next week.

He added that technical committees will be formed to discuss the details of transferring each civilian power.

It should be noted that out of 30 powers that are to be transferred to the Palestinians, five have already been transferred.

Talks To Cover All Areas

JN0606201395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1930 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian and Israeli sides have decided to discuss the transfer of additional powers to the Palestinian side in the West Bank. Thus, the talks on power transfer will cover all fields. This decision was announced by the heads of the Palestinian and Israeli delegations to these talks — Civilian Affairs Minister Jamil al-Tarifi and Aaron Shahor, coordinator of Israeli activities — at a joint news conference they held in Cairo this evening. Al-Tarifi said: Last week, we called for holding talks on the transfer of power in all fields. Today, we are glad to hear Israel's agreement on this.

The two sides decided to exert their utmost to finish as many files as possible before 1 July. The Cairo talks deal with transferring power in the following fields: labor, trade, industry, municipalities, local administration, statistics, agriculture, postal services, telecommunications, and fuel.

Talks Continue

NC0706100195 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0855 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA)—The Palestinian-Israeli talks for the transfer of powers to the Palestinian self-rule authority resumed this morning. The Palestinian side to the talks is being headed by Jamil al-Tarifi, official in charge of civilian affairs in the Palestinian Authority, while the Israeli side is being led by Aaron Shahor, coordinator of the Israeli government activities in the occupied territories.

The talks deal with the areas of labor, telecommunications, trade, industry, oil, gas, statistics, local government, postal services, and insurance.

The two sides are expected to wind up their talks later today.

Algeria

French Couple Reportedly Assassinated in Algiers

NC0706094595 Paris AFP in English
0941 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Paris, June 7 (AFP)—A French couple was assassinated in Algiers on Wednesday [7 June] morning, several sources in Paris said.

The two were slain at around 8:00 a.m. (0700 GMT) in the El Biar residential district of the Algerian capital, according to the reports. No official confirmation was immediately available.

Destruction of Courthouse, School Reported

NC0706105495 Paris AFP in English
1012 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Algiers, June 7 (AFP) - An extremist Islamic gang sowed terror in a small town near here, blowing up the court house and a school and shooting at the security forces, the daily Liberte reported Wednesday [7 June].

Several dozen armed fundamentalists attacked the town of Larbaa, some 30 kilometres (20 miles) from here, on Sunday night in a spectacular operation that lasted for several hours, the paper said.

The gang first isolated the town by placing burning tyres on all the roads out, then about 50 men overran a mosque located opposite the court building and opened fire on the security forces guarding it.

The paper gave no details of casualties, but according to unconfirmed reports two members of the security forces were killed.

The gang then blasted the courthouse into ruins with a truck loaded with high explosive. They also blew up a nearby school with bombs made of acetylene gas canisters and destroyed the post office, a bank and a cultural centre and a professional training college.

According to Liberte, Larbaa is a stronghold of Islamic fundamentalists. After the incidents, the roadsign into the town was replaced by the word "Kabul", the name of the Afghan capital.

Some of the hardline Islamic extremists who have been waging war on the Algerian military-backed secular regime for three years are known as "Afghans" because they fought alongside the mujahedeen in Afghanistan.

Threats against the lives of teachers have been issued by the most radical of the extremist factions, the Islamic Armed Group (GIA), which has murdered both school staff and children, purportedly for breaking strict Islamic sharia law and for teaching French, language of the colonial power before independence in 1962.

Schools in Larbaa have been closed since the beginning of the academic year.

The operation was the biggest reported since the security forces launched a major offensive against Islamic gangs in March, notably in the Jijel region on the eastern coast, 'Ain Defla in the southwest and in the region south of the capital and in Kabylie.

Military aircraft bombed several suspected guerrilla hideouts which were difficult to get to overland.

Some 370 Islamic extremists have been killed since May 1, according to a toll based on reports by security forces, while the independent daily El Watan on Sunday said 650 were slain last month.

Faced with the military crackdown, armed groups have made an increasing number of attacks with explosives and carbombs. Five people were killed and 55 injured by such operations in May, according to a partial toll.

At least two other potentially very bloody attacks were prevented when the security forces defused bombs in the Algiers region.

The war began after the military intervened in January 1992 to cancel the first free general elections since independence once it became clear that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Radio Reports Arrest of 12 'Islamists' in Italy

LD0606164695 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in Arabic 1500 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Italian radio and television announced this afternoon the arrest of 12 Algerian and Moroccan Islamists in a number of Italian cities. These were Naples, Rome, Milan, and Pavia.

The same statement added that the apprehended persons were accused of dealing in arms and military equipments and collecting money for issuing forged documents for terrorist purposes in Algeria, Europe, and particularly Bosnia.

Security Forces Say 17 'Terrorists' Killed

LD0606194995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network
in French 1800 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The security forces have announced that they killed 17 terrorists in various parts of the north of the country over the past few days during search operations. Several firearms were recovered.

HAMAS' Nahnah Cited on Meeting With Zeroual

MM0706080095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Jun 95 p 6

[Interview with HAMAS leader Shaykh Mahfoud Nahnah by Kamil al-Tawil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tawil] Could you tell us about the results of the meeting held with the head of state at the end of last week?

[Nahnah] The meeting with the Algerian presidency focused on dispelling the ambiguities not clarified in the Algerian reconciliation document delivered by our movement to all the influential forces in Algeria. We were very pleased with its approval of the principles contained in the document particularly as they reflect the essence of the most important dialogues which took place between the parties and the authorities in Algeria and abroad. We also noted its reservations about the plan drafted abroad (the Rome national covenant) which we supported because many of its provisions were in complete harmony with what came up in the dialogues held in Algeria.

We strongly condemned the double standards of the political class, authorities and opposition, which, we maintained, reduced the chances of restoring confidence. We held the authorities directly responsible for causing the crisis and for solving it.

We believe that anyone who rejects reconciliation, whoever he may be, will only add to the rot and to the crisis for despicable, selfish, and partisan motives or as a result of an evil, bloody mentality. We requested an end to the confrontation between people of the same country joined by the common faith of Islam. To do away with the abhorrent idea of internationalization, we suggested formation of a committee of wise men that would have authority and would be nationally acceptable to all the conflicting parties, to make good efforts, identify the problems, and stop the intransigence. The presidency accepted the proposal in principle.

[Al-Tawil] In the light of what you heard from President Zeroual, how do you see the situation developing?

[Nahnah] Various parties are making efforts to contain the crisis. What we heard from the presidency supports acceptance and development of these efforts until they reach a stage where they can culminate in reconciliation:

1. between the Algerians;

2. between the parties in general;
3. between the parties and the authorities;
4. between the authorities and elements of the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] who are aware of the dangers threatening their homeland as a result of the continuous infighting and destruction of the country's achievements.

Such reconciliations would enhance success of the dialogues particularly as signs of the countdown for ending the bloodshed are beginning to appear on the political, informational, and security horizons. The phase of charged emotions is also beginning to give way to reason and understanding of the rules of the political game.

[Al-Tawil] Did the president express a position to you regarding his participation in the presidential elections?

[Nahnah] That question should be addressed to the person concerned, but we are certain that dialogues, reconciliations, and elections gain credibility through extensive consultations and in-depth talks. There also should be plurality of candidates and a nonpartisan and nonaligned administration, and suitable political, administrative, security, and psychological atmospheres should also be created with equal media opportunities for all participants. Our movement feels that the real candidates will be the ones who enjoy the support of the people, not those who have protective shields or protective institutions, stage outdated marches, or harbor ill intentions.

[Al-Tawil] What is HAMAS' [Islamic Society Movement] position on the current crisis and the election issue?

[Nahnah] The position of the Algerian Islamic Society, HAMAS, on the complex crisis can be summed up as follows:

1. We have peacefully rejected the suspension of the election process, the reason for which the authorities still have not clearly and logically explained.

2. We have repeatedly called for dialogue in a civilized manner.

3. We absolutely reject violence as a means of reaching or staying in power, and advocate peaceful rotation of power.

4. We have called for a wider circle of power and for the participation of all trends in building the homeland according to the constant principles and values and national characteristics. We have not asked the impossible and we have not practiced what is forbidden under the Islamic Shari'ah against people, property, or honor. HAMAS has not backed down from these fundamental choices and logical convictions which are in line with God's laws of change. Furthermore, the movement has

from the beginning stated and adhered to what it believed to be right and in line with the Shari'ah while others did not. Hence what happened and hence the countdown.

As regards our position on the elections, they fulfill one of our proposals made two years ago. We believe they constitute one of the solutions for this stifling crisis, but not the whole solution. They carry numerous problems — before, during, and after — but there must be legitimacy.

[Al-Tawil] Shaykh Rabah Kebir, chairman of FIS' Executive Committee, has criticized your "fluctuating" position. What is your comment on that?

[Nahnah] He is entitled to say what he likes. Democracy does not belong to him. It belongs to the democrats who want what is good for their homeland and who are living through their people's tragedy. We have chosen to be a democratic, moderate, educational, Islamic movement, experiencing its society's pains and sharing its aspiration to change for the better on the basis of its own characteristics.

Communications Minister Views Elections, Islamists

95AF0102A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 27 May 95 p 6

[Interview with Communications Minister Liamine Bchichi by Ibrahim Humaydi in Damascus; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Algerian Communications (Information) Minister Liamine Bchichi has warned the parties that think it is in their interest to support the terrorist Islamic movements in his country that terrorism will recoil and hit its perpetrators. In an interview with AL-HAYAH in Damascus, he affirmed that the condition for dialogue is the disavowal of terrorism. He also said that there would be no return to the 1991 elections in Algeria and that rivers do not flow backward. What is on the agenda today, he said, is presidential election.

The text of the interview AL-HAYAH conducted with Bchichi at the conclusion of the third information ministers' conference of the Organization of Islamic States [OIS] follows:

[Humaydi] How do you evaluate the results of the information ministers' conference?

[Bchichi] We hope that the third conference will produce good results. Things are moving gradually toward fruition. We hope to approve suitable information policies at the 1997 conference in Senegal. This would be a great achievement. What matters is to make firm, positive steps, no matter how slow they are. I hope that few or many resolutions will be implemented and that we will have tangible results by 1997.

[Humaydi] Do you think that the participating countries can adopt consistent policies to deal with issues like fundamentalism?

[Bchichi] The participants have affirmed their rejection of all types of terrorism. We think that we will achieve a minimum level of agreement in this regard. I do not know if a different view exists, but I am confident that we will achieve such policy. The science of fundamentals says warding off harm is better than bringing a benefit. Therefore, coordination is necessary since some Islamic countries, and not only Algeria, are facing religious terrorism and extremism. Some parties have exploited this to achieve certain aims or to impose their opinions on others. This totally contradicts the Islamic shari'ah and the verse that says: "No coercion in religion."

During the opening session of the conference, President Hafiz al-Asad made a wise remark when he said: One God, one Koran, one Prophet, but not one Islamic world. The fundamentalist movements caused us to forget economic development. We continued to stand in front of the tree that conceals the forest.

The Muslims are feeling the damage. They have distorted Islam. It is no longer a religion of mercy and solidarity among people. The fundamentalists are violating the principles of Islam. The Muslim is a person who does not hurt people of different religions and races, but the Muslim in Algeria is hurting other Muslims just because they do not share the same opinion.

[Humaydi] What is your comment on Washington's decision to advise the Americans to be careful when traveling to Algeria? Why did Washington issue this advice now?

[Bchichi] Some elements caused Algeria to become a dangerous place. The government, however, is doing its best to protect all the people, particularly the guests. Washington's decision is an American affair.

[Humaydi] Why was it issued now?

[Bchichi] I am afraid if I say something it will be interpreted that their turn has come. Every country has a right to advise its citizens about traveling to this or that place or sometimes to ban such travel. This is a legitimate matter. I have no explanation for this other than to say that crime has no logic.

[Humaydi] Who do you think supports the extremist Islamic movements in Algeria?

[Bchichi] It is a regrettable situation. I cannot, in my official or unofficial capacity, accuse any country or regime. Matters are clear and known. Although we have adopted this religion since the dawn of Islam, we are facing a different phenomenon. The Algerian youths are falling in the trap. They are teaching them things that have nothing to do with the correct Islam.

The Koran is there and Islam is there. The Prophet's behavior toward his companions was human. We do not see this today in the extremists' actions toward their adversaries. What they are doing is not part of the Islamic religion. I think that the inability of the extremist Islamic movements to reason with and convince others has led to the use of violence. A journalist writes and expresses his views. Why assassinate him? Why do they murder the men of free thought in the country? We respect the existence of different views. We have established pluralism since 1988.

We believe in the multiplicity of views. The extremists in Algeria are attacking women, experts, judges, intellectuals, and the engineers who had come to our country to work. The terrorists' murdering foreigners is contrary to Islamic principles. Killing the white (foreign) brothers is not part of Islam. It contradicts Islam, the shari'ah, and the Prophet's teachings in letter and spirit. Whoever has an opposite view, let him spell it out. I think there is no justification for such criminal actions.

[Humaydi] Do you think foreign or Arab parties are behind the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS]?

[Bchichi] We are confident that the fundamentalist movement in Algeria did not spring out from nothing. The people know better than I about its origin. Countries seek their interests. Some parties may have thought that their interest lies in encouraging the fundamentalist movements. These movements have found parties to encourage them so they can reap certain fruits at a certain time. Time has shown that terrorism harms everyone. It recoils and hits its perpetrators. I do not want to say which party supports the terrorists. We are currently dealing with the situation, and we think we are succeeding. We are doing it rationally. President Liamine Zeroual held contacts with the dissolved FIS to return to the fold. This was based on the premise that if we wanted a democratic solution to the problem, there would be no other way but popular elections. Therefore, we say: Let us all vote in free and democratic presidential elections.

[Humaydi] Do you think that President Zeroual will not nominate himself?

[Bchichi] Nominations have not begun yet. President Zeroual has not said yes or no. Things depend on schedules. When the time comes for nominations in the middle of July, we will see what the president's position will be. The elections will take place before the end of this year.

[Humaydi] What are your terms for holding a dialogue with the fundamentalists?

[Bchichi] Algeria is open to all. The door to repentance will not be closed. Dialogue, however, must begin on the basis of the disavowal of violence. Anyone who comes to negotiations carrying weapons is saying that he does not want dialogue but violence.

[Humaydi] What are the other terms for holding talks?

[Bchichi] The first and only condition is the disavowal of violence. Dialogue will then be open in all directions.

[Humaydi] Does this include the return to the election results?

[Bchichi] Which elections? We are not going back. We are talking about the future. Talking about the past will lead to an unending dialogue. After two and a half years, the leadership in Algeria found out that continuing the dialogue without a time limit is impossible while blood is being spelled on the streets. Since the president protects the Constitution, we will hold presidential elections; this will take us to another stage. This will be the first step in establishing legitimacy and ending the crisis.

[Humaydi] Are the Islamic movements really trying to create institutions parallel to the state's institutions?

[Bchichi] I have never heard about it. It is true that we passed through a period in which state institutions were not functioning. The country lived in a vacuum, and this has led to the emergence of the Islamic movements and caused the dissolved FIS to fill the vacuum. This is natural after the state withdrew from the field and abandoned what it has been doing since the revolution. The Islamists tried to fill this vacuum through charity organizations and societies. Now we are reviving government activity. We built more than 40,000 apartments in 1993, 80,000 apartments in 1994, and so far this year 160,000 apartments. The previous regime was not interested in the problem, despite the population explosion and the serious housing crisis. The dissolved FIS has not provided housing to anyone, but it has promised to put the people in the apartments of state officials if its representatives are elected. We do not deny that some municipalities are not doing their duty because the officials in them have withdrawn voluntarily or involuntarily. Things are now going on normally.

The talk about liberated and non-liberated areas is exaggerated and does not even deserve to be commented on. I am surprised that some foreign correspondents come to Algeria wearing war or field uniforms, thinking that the situation is abnormal.

[Humaydi] It has been said that the people voted for the FIS in the previous elections not because they supported it but because they opposed the other parties.

[Bchichi] Only the National Liberation Front [FLN] was in the arena then. The FLN ruled the country, in theory. It had nothing to do with the historic Liberation Front.

[Humaydi] Do you think that the military officers were ruling on behalf of the FLN?

[Bchichi] Until the 1989 Constitution, the military establishment was a legitimate part of the existing political system. The army had representatives in the FLN's central committee. After independence, the army, a descendant of the national liberation army that faced the Atlantic forces during the French occupation, assumed the task of building the nascent Algerian state. The Algerian Army made many achievements, but because of the 1989 Constitution and the emergency situation in the country, the popular army is currently playing a distinguished role in establishing security, defending the country, and ensuring stability and peace.

[Humaydi] Will you eventually submit to violence and go back to the election results?

[Bchichi] Rivers do not flow backward. Likewise, history never goes back. The calculations of those who organized the last elections were not precise. One group thought that the dissolved FIS would not win more than 20 percent of the votes. A second group maneuvered to simplify the importance of the FIS to open the way before it. A third group thought that the FIS would end if it assumed power. I think that the FIS wanted to use democracy to achieve power, and when it had assumed power it would say there was no other law but God's shari'ah.

[Humaydi] Some people are talking about democracy and the rotation of power.

[Bchichi] The present regime in Algeria believes in the same principle. It is trying to apply it by holding free presidential elections in the presence of neutral international observers. The extremists have announced, more than once, that they reject the democratic elections. They did something contrary to principles. They used the mosques to hold political meetings five times a day. The Algerian people are Muslim. The mosque is for prayer and not for political meetings. Any mosque preacher can make criticisms from the pulpit. This is his right to advocate what is good and preach against evil.

[Humaydi] Why are the FIS leaders not allowed to appear on television?

[Bchichi] The legal status of these people does not permit them to appear on television. Perhaps you have read the letters a leader of the dissolved FIS sent to the president of the state. They showed a flagrant contradiction in the positions of the terrorist groups. Anyway, since you asked about the television, I would like to affirm that the freedom of opinion and the press is guaranteed, despite the emergency situation that exists. We often ignore some violations because we believe in the new democratic experiment and we believe that every horse is liable to stumble.

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on Peace Process, Press Law

NC0706111995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0910 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 7 Jun (MENA) — President Husni Mubarak has stressed that freedom of expression and opinion in the press will absolutely not be harmed. No journalist will be imprisoned for his views, but these should be honest views, not accusations against other people, he said.

Asked about a proposal that the Journalists Syndicate commit itself to the press convention of honor, drafted 20 years ago, in return for a reconsideration of the law [that imposes tougher penalties on journalists], the president said: Had the journalists been committed to that convention, the law would have "remained dormant."

In statements to journalists after casting his vote in the Consultative Council midterm elections, President Mubarak said that he is 100 percent for freedom of the press, but not for freedom of defamation. Egypt has its longstanding traditions, he remarked.

Noting that there are many honorable and respectable men in the Egyptian press, the president said: But I feel sad about some minor practices that must not characterize the press or the journalists in Egypt.

Stressing the need to understand opposing views, he said: You are entitled to your opinion, and I am entitled to mine. But even the press men themselves criticize and attack each other.

He explained: Some people wrote their opinions on the new law yesterday and the day before, but they [other journalists] attacked them and wanted them not to write again in those newspapers. Why do they not want them to write and give their opinion? Do you ask someone who expresses a different opinion not to write? There must be a dialogue. You expressed opinions that opposed the government. Why should you ask for something and do its opposite? This is wrong, and such a method can never produce results.

Had it not been for those excesses, the president said, the law would not have been passed at all. He noted that he had opposed the issuance of the law for five or six years, and that he repeatedly warned against excesses.

Asked about the three-way meeting that will be held in Cairo Friday attended by himself, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, President Mubarak said that the final agenda of the meeting has not yet been approved.

On his recent consultations with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and whether progress has been made in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, the president said: There are talks between Israel and the United States in this respect. We are following the developments of these talks, and if we are asked to do something, we will do it.

He noted that the Syrian and Israeli chiefs of staff will meet in the United States at the end of this month. He expressed hope that progress will be made. The convening of this meeting at this level is in itself progress, he said, hoping that greater progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations will be made.

Asked whether Israel will commit itself to the date set for the redeployment of its forces in the occupied Palestinian territories — 1 July — President Mubarak said: I hope so. I have warned against the danger of this delay and its consequences in several recent statements.

He added: We want a genuine peace; we are seeking to achieve this peace using all our capabilities. I fear the consequences if Israel fails to redeploy its forces by 1 July.

On his participation in the African summit in Addis Ababa on 26 June, the president said he cannot decide this now as this depends on circumstances.

Asked if he wishes to tell the people something on this day of Consultative Council elections, President Mubarak said that every citizen must participate in the elections. He stressed that citizens casting their votes, expressing their views, and choosing their representatives is the first rule of democracy. Every citizen must cast his vote so that talk about democracy cannot be empty rhetoric, he said.

On the ministerial meeting he held yesterday and his encouragement of tourist projects, President Mubarak said: We encourage any projects that interest the state, develop the economy, and create job opportunities for the citizens. He added: We do not want the state to intervene in the building of hotels or tourist villages. We must give the private sector the chance. We had experience in the past. The state worked in the field of tourism but its companies incurred losses, and the taxes the government levied were used to compensate those companies. It is enough loss for us. Let us leave the private sector to work, especially that we now number 60 million people.

Journalists Reject 'Restrictions' on Press Freedom

NC0606132995 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1305 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 6 Jun (MENA) — The Journalists Association Council held an emergency meeting today under Ibrhaim Nafi', head of the association, to discuss Law 93 of 1995, which toughens the penalties for press crimes and permits the imprisonment of journalists.

The council once again stated its absolute rejection of these amendments, which add further restrictions on freedom of the press and journalists' work. The council urged all journalists to attend an extraordinary general meeting by the association on Saturday, 10 June to reach a unified position in the face of these amendments.

Following today's meeting, Nafi' stressed that the Journalists Association Council will undertake all legal means to confront this law, but will continue dialogue and negotiations with the officials about it. He emphasized that there can be no retraction from the journalists' legitimate rights to express their opinions freely.

'Ali Hashim, the association's secretary general, stated that the council will hold a special meeting on Friday, 9 June to prepare the agenda for the extraordinary general meeting, the draft resolutions to be discussed at the meeting, and the draft statement to be issued.

Vow To Repeal Amendments

NC0606131695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
3 Jun 95 p 7

[Report by Faruq 'Abd-al-Majid]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a heated six-hour meeting at the Journalists Syndicate [JS], journalists have rejected the recent amendments [to the penal code] as harmful to press freedom. They emphasized that the amendments restrict liberty, and they objected to the promulgation of legislation related to the heart of their work without their being consulted. They urged legal measures to oppose the amendments. JS Secretary Jalal 'Isa, who moderated the debate, called on the legal profession to prepare a legal study to prove that the amendments were wrong. The meeting was attended by a huge number of journalists from all Egyptian newspapers and by a large number of political party leaders and People's Assembly members. [passage omitted]

JS Secretary General 'Ali Hashim said that the Egyptian press suffered several major disasters last year. He noted that laws restricting freedom of the press were issued despite the press' honorable role in confronting all acts of violence, sabotage, and terrorism in the country. He said the press has been a shining mirror of the homeland throughout the ages and stressed that the recent amendments are not in the interest of journalists, as some people claim. Where is the immunity of the journalist, he asked?

JS Treasurer Majdi Muhanna said the JS Council will use all legal and legitimate means to repeal the amendments. It is enough honor for the Egyptian press that it has confronted all kinds of corruption in the country, he said. [passage omitted]

JS Council Member Aminah Shafiq said the new law curbs free thought at a time when the country is experiencing many crises. She said the recent amendments mean that all journalists should write only what the government wants them to write and avoid writing about corruption cases. [passage omitted]

JS Council member Hasan al-Rashidi said the amendments roll back the democratic gains the county has achieved. [passage omitted]

AL-AHRAM writer Ihsan Bakr said this unprecedentedly huge crowd sends a message to officials by condemning this law. We will work to foil it, he said. He appealed to the government, saying that if it stands for social peace and national and social unity it should withdraw the law. [passage omitted]

Sources Sought To Counter Planned U.S. Aid Cuts

NC0606175095 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
30 May 95 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mahmud Bakri]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Egyptian Government recently received hints from U.S. officials via diplomatic channels that the United States plans to cut economic cooperation programs and economic partnership agreements to their lowest limits.

The U.S. officials noted that this position, whose real dimensions will appear clearly later on, will be adopted in the next few weeks and that it is a natural reaction on the part of the U.S. Administration to the sharp criticism Congress levelled at President Bill Clinton in a memorandum submitted to him in the past few days. In the memorandum, Congress requested that the President give good reasons for his insistence on continuing economic aid to Egypt and on encouraging economic partnership agreements. The memorandum requested that a standard criterion be applied in dealing with Egyptian politicians in the wake of the Jerusalem crisis and Egypt's sharp criticism of the United States.

The memorandum defined the desired option as a daring declaration that includes the following:

1. In view of accumulated pressure on the U.S. economy, the U.S. Administration has decided to cut its economic aid to Egypt by 50 percent next year.

2. The economic partnership agreement should observe new rules that guarantee protection for U.S. investments and equipment in Egypt.

3. The United States should emphasize the depth of the strategic relations and make the Egyptian side understand the practical justifications of that declaration. [passage omitted]

In light of these moves, the crisis that emerged recently between the United States and Egypt is expected to worsen, particularly in the economic area. The government has, therefore, embarked on efforts at the international level to provide finances for development plans in the coming period.

The recent visit to Britain by Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector; the meetings Egyptian diplomats held with representatives of European and Asian governments, primarily France and Germany, whose chancellor is expected to visit Cairo on June 2; in addition to other moves in Italy, Spain, China, Japan, and other Asian countries all fall in this context.

Current Egyptian moves seek not only to contact government officials, but also to focus on businessmen and major economic establishments. These contacts have produced the following:

1. Egyptian efforts focused on opening new outlets for investment in new communities in Sinai, the Red Sea, Upper Egypt, and new urban communities. There are more than 10,000 investment opportunities offered in these areas.

2. The government undertook feasibility studies for all the investments it is offering. Economic circles note that the offers are valued at over $800 million and might exceed $1 billion. The offers focus on tourism and some economic activities, in addition to agriculture, industrial, and trade activities.

3. The offered investments emphasize exemption from customs duties and other facilities and privileges for investors. Although the offered investment opportunities

cover several areas, they focus on social and economic development.

Extra Police Sent To 'Trouble-Hit' al-Minyah

NC0606142995 Paris AFP in English
1257 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Al-Minya, Egypt, June 6 (AFP) — The authorities have sent 2,000 police reinforcements to the Islamic militant stronghold of al-Minya in southern Egypt where 13 people died in just three days, police said Tuesday.

The policemen and conscripts, sectioned into "assault and search forces," have been sent to selected towns and villages in the trouble-hit southern province to impose strict control.

The extra forces have already begun dawn-to-dusk searches in the areas of Abu Qurqas, Mallawi and Dayar Mawas, 300 kilometres (190 miles) south of Cairo, police said.

The move was prompted by an Islamic militant attack which left nine villagers dead and three wounded at Tandah near Mallawi on Saturday.

Six fundamentalist gunmen from the main militant group, the al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, opened fire on villagers outside a mosque in the bloodiest attack on civilians in Egypt for three years.

Two days later security forces killed four militants in a shootout after surrounding them in a field in the village of al-Barajil, also near Mallawi.

The deaths took to 787 the number of people killed since Islamic militants began a violent campaign to bring down the government in March 1992.

Meanwhile, al-Minya police have seized 545 illegal weapons since the start of a crackdown on unregistered arms two weeks ago, police said.

Sudan Said Playing 'Hidden Role' To Support 'Terrorists'

NC0606163995 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
31 May 95 p 13

[Report by Ahad Musa]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The questioning of the leader of the "Returnees From Afghanistan" Organization by the Higher State Security Prosecution has revealed serious information about the training centers for members of this organization in Sudan and Pakistan, the routes they use to sneak back into Egypt, the money they receive from a number of foreign quarters abroad, and their meetings with leading terrorists who reside in various countries.

The leader of the organization confessed that dangerous terrorist Mustafa Hamzah, who is sentenced to death in connection with two terrorist cases, is a frequent visitor of Sudan, where he stays in Khartoum to meet with terrorist elements before sending them across Egypt's southern borders. The interrogation revealed that a group of 10 returnees had gathered important information and monitored the movements and locations of a number of state officials.

Judicial sources have told AL-AHRAM that the interrogations, conducted by a team of prosecutors led by Attorney General Hisham Saraya, disclosed some serious information about the hidden role played by some countries in support of terrorist elements. Terrorist Zakariya Muhammad Bashir, the leader of the organization, — who has fallen into the hands of the State Security Intelligence Office along with his wife, Huda 'Ali Bashir, after sneaking back into Egypt through the southern borders with Sudan — admitted that he had attended intensive military courses at the Islamic Caliphate Camp in Peshawar. He gave an account of his meetings with leaders of the so-called Islamic Group, including terrorist Mustafa Hamzah, the driving force behind the military cadres from abroad; Muhammad Shawqi al-Islambuli, who is in charge of propaganda; and others.

Bashir confessed that the group had prepared an extensive plan to assassinate state officials to create a security setback and prove the security forces' lack of control following the arrest of the group's leaders, including Tal'at Yasin Hammam. He added that he had visited Sudan, where he spent some time in apartments used by the fugitives as shelters before being sent to Egypt. He noted that every now and then terrorist Mustafa Hamzah visits these apartments, where passports and identification cards are also being forged. He pointed out that he later sneaked back into Egypt via a land route. It took him four days to return before falling into the hands of State Security Intelligence officers. He admitted that other elements, who had crossed the borders from Sudan, were killed in a clash with security forces at 6 October City three months ago. They were all instructed to meet in Egypt to take part in the criminal operations. He added that some external quarters and foreign organizations are paying monthly salaries to terrorists abroad. [passage omitted]

Labor Leader Interviewed on Party Tensions

95ld0055A London FILISTIN AL-MUSLIMAH in Arabic 19 Apr 95 pp 28-29

[Interview with al-Muhandess Ibrahim Shukri; place and date not given: "The Multiparty System in Egypt Is Superficial. The Government Restricts the Muslim Brotherhood Movement on the Pretext That It Is Banned"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Egyptian labor party is being subjected to a government attack that began with the detaining of deputy chief of the labor party Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad and his subsequent release after paying a 5,000 pound bail and continued with the interrogation of Majdi Ahmad Hussein, editor in chief of the party's mouthpiece AL-SHA'AB newspaper. (Other) interrogations and summons of the editors of the party's newspaper followed, and one of the paper's correspondents was even given a one-year sentence before the sentence was commuted to a three-month term after pressure from journalists and human rights organizations. During the last few weeks, the journalist 'Adel Hussein, the secretary general of the labor party, was arrested under the pretext that he forgot certain pro-Islamic Gama'at pamphlets that he brought back from Paris with him and left on the airplane seat. These measures stirred an angry reaction by the labor unions, especially the journalists and lawyers unions, resulting in a large number of the journalists taking over their union headquarters building, and some of them went on a hunger strike until 'Adel Hussein was freed. This occurred on 18 January, and in this dialogue with labor party leader al-Muhandess Ibrahim Shukri, he offers his views on the real reasons behind the arrest of the party's secretary general, especially since it comes right before the parliamentary elections. He also gives his views on the party's position on the upcoming elections and several other important issues.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The Egyptian regime is accusing the labor party of justifying the acts of violence perpetrated by some of the youths. What is your opinion?

[Shukri] This is a mistaken and untrue deduction, because there is a big difference between the labor party suggesting causes for the violence and one of the national papers suggesting these causes, since our party believes that there is violence and counterviolence. Therefore, whenever we take a look at this issue, we must not forget the police provocations against those who commit the violence, (nor should we forget) that these incidents occur only in upper Egypt where there are factors that help violent ideas spread, given the custom of the people of upper Egypt to carry weapons, not to mention the fact that the families there deal with the police from the standpoint of an ancient custom passed down from generation to generation, and this is the blood revenge. On the other hand, upper Egypt suffers from a high level of unemployment, and this environment, with all of its negatives, provides a suitable atmosphere for acts of violence. But, the labor party stands against terrorism of all stripes, whether by the government or by the governed.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] How can we extricate ourselves from the circle of reciprocal violence?

[Shukri] In this matter, the security treatment is not enough, since acts of violence have been continuous since the "Podium" incident where (former) President al-Sadat was killed. We have violence because a broad spectrum of the population has become convinced that the government does not implement its decisions and does not respect the laws that were amended in the constitution in 1980, namely that Islamic law is the principle source for legislative authority, especially because after the above-mentioned constitutional amendments were enacted, various committees were formed to issue laws that conformed to Islamic law, and this took place during the period of Dr. Sufi Abu-Taleb's temporary presidency when he headed the people's assembly (parliament). However, the regime backtracked on that and disavowed all of these measures that aimed at applying Islamic law.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What was the reason for this backtracking?

[Shukri] The government fears the application of Islamic law under the pretext that it would aid the spread of Islamicism to a great extent, especially after the death of President Sadat, and also Egypt is under a degree of foreign pressure to not apply Islamic law.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The recent period has witnessed an escalation on the part of the government against the labor party, starting with the party's vice president, Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, and ending with its Secretary General 'Adel Hussein. What is your view on that?

[Shukri] Concerning Dr. Muhammad Hilmi Murad, measures were taken against him after President Mubarak was re-elected for the third time, because our party rejected the president's re-election and the way it was handled by having a plebiscite on only one person without giving anyone an opportunity to nominate rivals to President Mubarak. Dr. Hilmi Murad had written a series of essays that were presented in a book entitled "No to Mubarak," and the labor party was the group most in opposition to the government. These articles were brought to the attention of the State

Security, and Dr. Hilmi was accused of incitement and provoking public opinion; then he was detained at the police precinct with common criminals and was treated poorly, in spite of the fact that he was the party's secretary general at that time and in spite of the fact that he previously held the position of president of Ein Shams University and the position of Minister of Education. It was clear that these measures were to punish him for what he wrote, in addition to being a threat to the party. The security campaign has continued against the party since some of its members in the regions have been arrested and the escalation of this situation reached its peak with the arrest of the party's (current) secretary general, the journalist 'Adel Hussein, under strange claims and spurious accusations, one of which was that the State Security found an envelope next to the airplane seat that 'Adel Hussein sat on during his return flight from Paris. Another accusation was over the essay that he published in AL-SHA'AB newspaper where he called attention to the presence of American forces in Sinai and said it was necessary to reconsider their presence in Sinai. The Ministry of Defense considered that essay to be divulging military secrets. We did not protest the arrest of 'Adel Hussein, but we did request that he be given a trial before a normal judge and not before a military tribunal, and that he be treated humanely during the investigation. But, that, unfortunately, has not been done, because he was held in a rest room in (Istqbal Turah) prison, in spite of the fact that he had a heart condition, and the doctor advised that he needed to have medical care close by, but that was never done.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Are these measures considered a means of pressure on the labor party, which was allied to the Muslim Brotherhood and the liberal party in the parliamentary elections for 1978?

[Shukri] In reality, these measures that the government took are aimed at terrorizing the party and its rank and file, but what they have done is to magnify the ugly picture of the ruling regime in Egypt before the entire world, not to mention the people of Egypt. This pressure may have been intended to split the 1987 alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood group, but we will never be pushed to take such a decision, regardless of whatever conflicts we have with the government over that.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] In spite of the fact that we have had 14 years of political pluralism, its effectiveness in expressing the people's will has not been established. So, what is the reason behind that discrepancy?

[Shukri] Egypt lived under the wing of one party for a very long period of time, then the constitution was amended in 1976 when we saw the appearance of the "opinion rostrum" that Sadat believed was an expression of political trends, then this rostrum became political parties, then it crystallized into the two parties—the wafd party, and the labor party in 1987—and after a long series of measures between the parties committee and the Socialist public prosecutor, which was an unusual procedure, six parties were established in Egypt by legal decree after the political parties committee in the parliament rejected that idea. Moreover, Egypt has been subject to the emergency law for more than 14 years, which has entailed the suspension of other laws, and this means that the police can, by means of the emergency law, detain any citizen for 24 hours based on the "law of suspicion," then after that the terrorism law was issued, which gives the police the right to arrest any citizen for three days without an investigation. "The law of suspicion" was used against members of the labor party during the elections of 1987.

This general atmosphere does not aid the cause of social growth or political participation, because the political parties are forbidden by virtue of the emergency law from holding mass meetings; moreover, the radio and television is considered a monopoly of the government and its ruling party and the (other political) parties are prohibited from even appearing on them. During the elections, the (labor) party was permitted to review its party programs on radio and television for a period of time not to exceed 20 minutes as a form of delusion and (to sell public opinion) a bill of goods. Therefore, what we have is nothing more than a superficial party pluralism, which (the Government) wants to keep that way.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Going into the 1990 elections the opposition forces represented by the labor party, the wafd party, the liberal party, and the Muslim Brotherhood, in spite of their differences of viewpoints, favored placing the elections under the supervision of a judge as one means of pressure to prevent cheating and falsification of ballots. Why did you decide to participate in the upcoming elections?

[Shukri] We will participate in the upcoming round in spite of the fact that the party pluralism that we have requested has not yet been achieved; however, we decided to participate after we had exhausted all means of putting pressure on the government. The elections will be more difficult because of the law of "itemizing support," which the government decreed since the elections are subject to falsification in Egypt's outlying areas.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] The labor party has floated an initiative to unify the ranks of the opposition since 1987, so how does that stand in light of the upcoming elections?

[Shukri] In 1987 I called for having the (opposition) parties place themselves on one roster under the name of the wafd party, but the wafd party rejected that, so instead we had the alliance between the Muslim Brotherhood, the liberal party, and the labor party requesting that Islam be the solution. But I am still calling on the parties to coordinate between themselves in order to achieve higher goals.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Will the labor party be successful in achieving its goals in alliance with the Muslim Brotherhood?

[Shukri] All of that is doomed to failure, in the president's opinion. The government believes it is necessary to stop that (Islamic) current and so the government must strive to achieve real stability rather than stability by means of the security option, via free, impartial elections, and by decreeing that Islam is the principal source of legitimacy.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] In spite of the passing of 14 years since party pluralism (was first introduced), it still does not speak for the masses. What is your opinion of that?

[Shukri] This is true. For example, the government has restricted the movements of the Muslim Brotherhood on the pretext that it is a group whose activities have been proscribed, both humanitarian service activities and social activities, by stopping the charitable groups that the Muslim Brotherhood directs.

Moreover, during the earthquake crisis the Egyptian Government banned all contributions to the labor party and the Muslim Brotherhood and claimed that the Red Crescent alone had the right to collect donations for that, and even the groups that specialize in disaster relief such as the food committee were prohibited (from collecting donations). And, during the flood catastrophe also, the same thing happened, in spite of the fact that the single entity was not able to collect (all) the donations and urge the population to participate.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Will the Arab League be able to play an effective role in achieving Arab reconciliation after the Alexandria summit?

[Shukri] We support every step aimed at unifying the Arab ranks so that we can preserve our identity, especially given the coming dangers. This is why President Mubarak refuses to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) unless Israel signs it. But, in reality, the Arab league has not yet played the role it was entrusted with because it issues resolutions but the governments do not implement these resolutions. However, in spite of that, the Arab League is still considered to be the single grouping that we must stand behind to confront the American capitalist-supported Jewish onslaught.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] What do you think about the Egyptian-Sudanese differences?

[Shukri] It is an abnormal situation, and I don't wish to delve into its causes. However, just because Egypt has been striving to join the Maghrebi union, is that irreconcilable with the natural Egyptian interest to look to the south (Sudan) to eliminate the differences? There is a policy that wants the Arabs to remain at difference with each other, and in continuous division.

[FILASTIN AL-MUSLIMAH] Will the map of alliances in the Arab region continue, given the Arab differences?

[Shukri] Confederacy is a result of sensing a (common) danger. And, while there is no comprehensive form (of an Arab Union) by means of the Arab League, it is impossible to imagine that the magnitude of the Arab differences would prevent achieving a comprehensive Arab unification when we compare our situation with the European unity, given the differences the European nations had with their world wars and all. Therefore, it is necessary for the people to put pressure on their rulers to achieve Arab reconciliation and to plan strategies employing Arab potentialities in the service of Arab causes.

Sudan

Foreign Minister Interviewed on Regional Politics

95AF0084A Paris AL-HAWADITH in Arabic
21 Apr 95 pp 34-35

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha by Usamah 'Ajjaj in Cairo; date not given: "Charging Sudan With Terrorism Is Part of Distortion Campaign; We Are Striving To Normalize Our Relations With Egypt and the Neighborhood"—first two paragraphs are AL-HAWADITH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] A Sudanese effort to normalize relations with Egypt has become evident since 'Ali 'Uthman Taha, the number-two man in the National Islamic Front (NIF) and one of the so-called hawks in Sudan's power equation, came to the foreign ministry. Taha thus has contradicted all the predictions and analyses that linked his assumption of the foreign ministry to future crises with many Arab states, including Egypt. Minister Taha came to Cairo to participate in the Arab League's 50th anniversary celebration and in the Egyptian-hosted African foreign ministers' meeting. He also held a lengthy meeting with his Egyptian counterpart, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, and apparently emerged with positive results concerning problems pending between the two countries.

AL-HAWADITH met Minister 'Ali 'Uthman Taha and interviewed him about domestic talk about diminishing possibilities for Sudanese national reconciliation and foreign talk about charges against the Sudan of supporting terrorism.

[AL-HAWADITH] Your assumption of the foreign ministry was an important sign of the NIF's effort to tighten control over the important strongholds of governance in the Sudan. What is your comment?

[Taha] Viewing Sudanese internal politics in the context of what prevailed in 1989 involves simplifying the picture and freezing the frame. Sudan has entered into broad developments since the national salvation revolution. Many people's convictions have changed. Salvation's political program was able to attract many elements who were classified as being on the lists of the former parties. This led to the creation of a different makeup at the heart of the Sudanese political scene. To deal with it by applying the old background would be a simplification damaging to a correct understanding of the situation in Sudan. Therefore, the roles that any individual in the Salvation Front plays cannot be reckoned only on the basis of previous affiliation, as demonstrated by the fact that more than 60 percent of those who held deputies' seats in the Constitutive Assembly or pre-1989 parliament now form part of this political section. Therefore, the view of any mandate to take charge of positions is governed by the needs of the period and the fitness of each personality in terms of his individual ability to express this period. No collective or party movement has anything to do with controlling this or that position. On the other hand, I was minister of social planning about two years ago, and the internal front in the perspective of international politics was not remote from events on the foreign scene. Indeed, many think that focusing and building the internal front in any country is a real prerequisite for the success of any effective foreign policy for the country. Thus, there is no question of loss or gain for any side.

[AL-HAWADITH] Do you have an explanation for the high profile of national reconciliation people in the Sudan and the meetings between high officials and opposition leaders, most recently the meeting of Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi? Then suddenly such talk ended. Have talks between the government and the opposition failed?

[Taha] National Assembly head Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah's meeting with some figures on the political scene, particularly Sadiq al-Mahdi, is no isolated event. It comes in the context of many meetings that began as early as the first weeks of the national salvation revolution. The purpose of all these talks and meetings is to increase the dose of confidence available for the project that the state proposes, in spite of the challenges the state faces, such as the ongoing war in the south and the economic difficulties. This project is taking shape on a background accustomed to a certain type of political practice that was embodied in a multiparty system that proved a failure in confronting these challenges. Thus, the intention of such meetings by the government is to underscore the government's point of view and explain the positive points that such a program produces. On the other hand, some of these figures embark on such talks with their own understanding, seeing them as a kind of admission of weakness in the face of challenges and as representing a kind of return to the past. They represent a dream for some of them. So the purpose of these often energetic steps that have successfully attracted many people who were in top leadership positions at the political bureau level of these parties—some were ministers—is to attract these elements into the domain of the new political situation. These attempts are made to attract these leadership elements to the convictions that others have reached. So it is not strange on the part of the government for such meetings to take place, nor is it strange for them not to reach definitive results, for dialogue is a lengthy matter, as you know. The principle of achieving consensus on the proposed political program is a principle that has been put forward by National Salvation, which holds to it even with those who take up arms.

[AL-HAWADITH] How will you deal with the recent alliances, some of which have assumed a military character, between Garang's group and parties in the north trying to move operations from the south to the cities?

[Taha] As for the historical facts, these alliances and threats to carry out military operations and move them into the north took place after the beginning of these political contacts. They confirm the strength of the regime's arguments that the party and political structure in its previous form could not present a convincing program for the domestic front, let alone the foreign front. The threat to use violence and the formation of alliances between various contradictory political currents reduce the credibility of these currents. These two things prove to public opinion that there is a lack of method and that it is all a matter of dreams of returning to power at the personal level. The government therefore is becoming increasingly convinced of the need to proceed with the proposed program, which is based on making citizens themselves partners in government and enabling them to direct their future by themselves. The success of such a program will make the argument that the state fears such pronouncements or alliances a matter that contradicts reality.

[AL-HAWADITH] Has the Salvation initiative reached a dead end, given the crises even between Sudan and parties within the organization?

[Taha] Salvation's initiative is one mediation link to promote the peace process in the south and bring points of view in Sudan closer together. It must be seen as a dynamic process. It is not a rigid process to be viewed as fragmented. It was preceded by events in Addis Ababa, Nairobi, Abuja 1, and Abuja 2. One cannot say that these rounds failed. Although they did not produce a comprehensive, final solution, they aided the process of becoming acquainted with viewpoints, sorting out subjects, and determining how to deal with them, even while disagreement remained over ordering priorities or over the view of some of the solutions to problems reached through these rounds. What happened in Salvation's initiative falls within the framework of this analysis. In other words, the stage at which the initiative stopped—the stage of announcing principles— helped to nourish domestically the peace program that is now gaining ground on many sides in the Sudan, especially in areas where the war has ended and where normal life has returned. Furthermore, the Salvation initiative is still the closest link practically and objectively, because the countries of the neighborhood that form the Salvation group are closest to understanding the nature of the problem. Therefore, the existence of problems with some of these states does not mean that the initiative has died. It is facing difficulties, but they can be overcome.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about Sudan's effort to overcome the problems of its relations with the states of the neighborhood?

[Taha] We have begun an energetic positive movement in this direction. During my brief tenure at the foreign ministry, we have been able to carry on direct and summit-level contacts with many of the leaders of these countries in connection with the recent Copenhagen summit. I think the yield from these contacts will be positive.

[AL-HAWADITH] Don't you think that the special statements in which John Garang tried to correct mistaken notions about his self-determination demand as being a kind of secession on the whole are positive statements on which one can build?

[Taha] John Garang keeps changing his political positions. The cause of separating the south from the north finds no support on the southern political scene, and of course none in the north. In particular, it finds no support in Garang's own Dinka tribal group, one of the south's largest tribes, which lives completely and exclusively in the south without any extensions outside the borders of Sudan. The general orientation of the members of the tribe is toward unity and against secession. Garang's return to talking about Sudan's unity is therefore really a response to pressures from the tribe and the problems the tribe faces. Thus, one can be sure that the slogan of secession and self-determination was merely a maneuver forming an agenda for others who, whatever their disagreements with the regime existing in Khartoum, included among themselves none of the sectors of Sudanese public opinion.

[AL-HAWADITH] What about the charges leveled against Sudan of supporting terrorism—not in the midst of Africa, but in many regions of the world?

[Taha] Accusing Sudan of terrorism is one of many things. It is a part of an organized campaign to distort Sudan's image, one of the plots carried out against many Arab countries. It is not strange for such charges to be leveled to distort Sudan's image and erect a psychological barrier between Sudan and the political and popular forces and groups that might support Sudan's just cause. The second point is that these campaigns, despite their frequency and persistence, have produced not one proof or objective support for their claims. They rely on the psychological theory of "lie, lie, until people believe you." Through its contacts with the North African Arab states and other countries, Sudan has been able to correct many of these false ideas. We are confident that we are hiding nothing. I stated to my brother foreign ministers of a number of Arab states that Sudan will never be a ground for attacking any Arab country.

[AL-HAWADITH] With which Arab ministers were these talks held?

[Taha] I had an opportunity to contact the ministers participating in the activities of the Arab League, including Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and the foreign ministers of Algeria, Tunisia, Qatar, Libya, and Iraq.

[AL-HAWADITH] Have not the Americans located a terrorist training camp north of Khartoum?

[Taha] It is nothing but a worthless claim. Such camps do not exist. We have always proclaimed our readiness to receive any unbiased investigator or observer to determine the truth of these claims. If Washington has high-tech devices and receivers, why can't it present a single practical proof of the existence of these camps?

[AL-HAWADITH] What is your comment on the U.S. point of view that the situation in Sudan is bad and comparable to the situation in Rwanda?

[Taha] Ridiculous! How can one compare conditions in Sudan with those in Rwanda? At the same time, they say that Sudan constitutes a danger and threat to U.S. interests in the region, which in itself reveals the contradictoriness of this logic.

[AL-HAWADITH] Some parties have sensed a desire on the part of Sudan and Egypt to overcome the negative aspects of the recent past and strengthen points of agreement. Is this correct?

[Taha] A priority issue that I am trying to deal with in my supervision of the foreign ministry is the effort to normalize and clear the atmosphere with the countries with which we have important strategic interests, especially Egypt. I think that if one objectively analyzes pending issues in relations between the two countries, these issues will not rise to the level of a break or confrontation, despite our reservations about some of the behavior that has taken place and some details. Certainly, what unites Sudan and Egypt is greater than what separates them. We intend to treat Egyptian-Sudanese relations in a spirit of positiveness, readiness for dialogue, and an alert awareness of the nature of events around us on the regional and international level that moves us to be in a single trench, rather than in two contrary lines.

[AL-HAWADITH] Why was there not a positive response to Egypt's decision to exclude Halayib from Egyptian election districts? Instead, it was included on the list of Sudanese districts.

[Taha] The issue has been beset with a certain confusion. The Egyptian decision was welcomed by all circles in Khartoum and was considered a positive sign. We still consider it such. The Sudanese decision did not coincide in time with the Egyptian position. It was an old decision in force since 1954, since the first elections were held in the self-rule period before independence. It was a routine bureaucratic measure. There has been no attempt to escalate conditions or record a stand on this issue relative to the Egyptian position. We think the entire issue can be handled through objective dialogue. In that way we can defuse any matters that might lead to escalation and impede dialogue.

[AL-HAWADITH] Don't you think that the new round of the Islamic nationalism conference is raising the fears of many of the region's states, especially because the conference is hosting many extremist leaders who are wanted even in their own countries?

[Taha] The conference is a manifestation of the healthy popular movement taking place in the world. I think that we in the Arab countries need to do some self-examination about this. It is better for us and our peoples that a movement of political communication take place among us—better for us and our peoples, with all their sectors and difference of opinion. The real affliction is the interruption of the language of dialogue and the use of the language of violence as an alternative. We in Sudan on the official level believe in not interfering in others' affairs. We allow no one to use Khartoum as an arena for harming his country by any actions or to form a case of opposition outside the recognized zone. We think we need to unite ranks, not scatter them. We believe in the need to expand the area of political dialogue. We wonder whether such conferences would elicit such reactions as we now see and observe if they were held in another of the world's countries. It is good for us that such meetings be held within the large household and that we speak frankly to each other. We should discuss our problems publicly, with all of us present, without any secret agreements.

Oman

Government Backs Privatisation, Diversification

NC0406203595 Paris AFP in English
1923 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Muscat, June 4 (AFP) — Arab and western experts called here Sunday [4 June] for Oman to push ahead with privatisation and its efforts to diversify from an oil-dependent economy, at the end of a two-day conference.

The forum urged Oman "to create a stable economic climate for the development of a private sector which makes proper use of natural resources and human potential," the official news agency ONA reported.

It also called for "diversification of the economy so as not to depend any longer on a sole resource of revenue, as is the case with oil." Other resources should also be developed, such as agriculture, fishing, tourism and minerals.

Oman has launched economic reforms calling for privatization, freeing up interest rates, and opening the stock market to foreigners. It also may allow foreigners to own some businesses outright, except in the oil sector.

The sultanate, which is not a member of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), plans to raise output to 853,000 barrels a day in the middle of this year.

The government is determined to encourage private enterprise in a country which is too dependent on oil, a senior official said Saturday on the opening day of the conference on Oman's perspectives for 2020.

"The private sector will be the backbone of the sultanate's future economic direction, with the state serving as a strategic catalyst," said Qays al-Zawawi, deputy prime minister for financial and economic affairs.

The conference was organized as part of Oman's preparations for the 1996-2000 development plan.

Gas Pipeline Project With India Moving Ahead

NC0406190795 Paris AFP in English
1341 GMT 4 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Abu Dhabi, June 4 (AFP) — Oman and India are pressing ahead with an ambitious project to build a long underwater pipeline to supply natural gas to the subcontinent, according to the project supervisor.

Bids for the two-phase project, to be completed by the year 2001, have been issued and the main contracts could be awarded this year, said Peter Roberts, project executive at the Omani Oil Company (OOC).

"We have made a lot of progress and the project is proceeding on schedule," he told the Paris-based Arab Oil and Gas magazine, obtained here.

The pipeline, to run 1,100 kilometres (687 miles) near Iranian territorial waters, will supply India with nearly one billion cubic feet (30 million cubic metres) daily of Omani natural gas.

This part of the project is scheduled to be finished in June 1999 and the amount would be doubled when the second stage, involving a parallel line, is completed by 2001, Roberts said. The first stage will cost around 2.8 billion dollars and the second nearly 2.2 billion dollars.

"To meet that target date, all the main contracts will have to be awarded by the end of this year," Roberts said.

He added the project was "technically challenging as the gasline is to be laid across the Arabian sea where the water is up to 3,500 metres deep."

Roberts, whose company signed an agreement for the project with the Omani and Indian governments in December, said the two main contracts to be awarded covered the supply of pipes and laying of the gasline on the sea bed.

Companies from Japan, Britain, France, Italy, Netherlands, the United States and Switzerland are vying for the contracts.

He said four firms were bidding for the second contract and they had been asked to submit bids for a turnkey project by the end of June.

"OOC's work programme for 1995 will essentially involve evaluating the bids received and arranging the necessary financing for the project in the form of both of equity participation and bank loans," he said.

Oman, which is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, has been trying to tap its gas resources following major discoveries in the past few years.

Its gas reserves are officially put at around 24 trillion cubic feet (720 billion cubic metres).

Saudi Arabia

Yemeni President, Delegation Continue Visit

King Fahd, Salih Hold Closed Talks

JN0606134795 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, and Saudi

King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, held a closed session of talks at al-Salam Palace in Jeddah last night.

SABA' has learned that the two leaders discussed means of promoting fraternal relations in the interest of the Yemeni and Saudi peoples' aspirations and hopes of establishing distinguished relations based on brotherhood, cordiality, cooperation, and good neighborliness.

The two leaders also discussed developments in the region which are of interest to both the Arab and Islamic nations, as well as the peace process in the region.

An official round of talks was held between our country and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Jeddah at 0130 today under President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and Saudi King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques. [passage omitted]

In a cordial and fraternal atmosphere, the two sides discussed several issues of interest to the two fraternal countries, and means of promoting fraternal cooperation.

The two sides expressed their desire to reactivate cooperation and coordination, to promote relations in all fields, to solve all problems through dialogue and a spirit of cordial and fraternal understanding and good neighborliness, and to do all that is possible to promote relations in the interest of the two peoples' progress and prosperity based on the spirit of brotherhood and the deep-rooted historic relations between the two fraternal countries and peoples in a way which guarantees the achievement of stability and peace in the region.

Salih Meets Top Officials

JN0606185495 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Yemeni President Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih today received His Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, Saudi Arabia's second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, at his residence in Jeddah's al-Hamra' Palace. Prince Sultan welcomed the president to Saudi Arabia.

The two officials discussed a host of issues and developments concerning bilateral ties and their future prospects, as well as the means to develop them to achieve fruitful cooperation and integration to benefit the interests and prosperity of the two fraternal peoples and in a way that will support security, stability, and peace in the Arabian Peninsula and the region as a whole. The meeting was attended by Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of Yemen's House of Representatives.

The president also received at his place of residence Saudi Foreign Minister His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. They discussed and reviewed ties between the two fraternal countries and the means to develop them. They also exchanged views on several issues and developments in the regional and Arab arenas which are of concern to our Arab nation, particularly the regional peace process and support for the efforts exerted to restore Arab solidarity. They also discussed international issues of mutual concern.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr. Muhammad Ahmad al-Kabab, our country's ambassador to Saudi Arabia; and 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Mansuri, secretary general of Saudi Arabia's Foreign Ministry.

Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also met in Jeddah with Saudi Interior Minister His Highness Prince Nayif Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz. They discussed issues related to developing brotherly ties and the fields of cooperation and coordination between the two fraternal countries and the means to develop them in a way that will achieve the aspirations of the two neighborly peoples and translate into reality their common hopes for security, stability, and prosperity. They also exchanged views on a host of issues and developments of concern to the two neighborly, sisterly countries and their stability.

Brother President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih also received at his place of residence His Highness Saudi Deputy Interior Minister Ahmad Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz.

They exchanged cordial conversations and discussed a number of issues concerning the improvement of ties between the two sisterly countries and the means to improve them to serve the aspirations of the people in the two fraternal countries, achieve their common objectives, and strengthen the bases of unity and the ties of the common destiny.

The meeting was attended by Brother Shaykh 'Abdallah Bin-Husayn al-Ahmar, speaker of the Yemeni House of Representatives.

Salih Addresses Businessmen, Investors

JN0706091095 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, met with a number of businessmen and investors in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at al-Hamra' Palace in Jeddah today. The businessmen expressed happiness with this meeting which comes after the Yemeni people have upheld unity and removed all obstacles impeding progress and development.

Addressing them, the brother president expressed his pleasure meeting with them on this occasion in a sisterly country with which the Yemenis are joined by bonds of history and kinship. He noted the good and positive results of this visit, as well as the talks he held with his brother King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, and with officials in the Kingdom.

He said: We have met, praise be to God, and removed all black clouds overshadowing relations between the two sisterly countries. I must stress that we have achieved good results in the field of entrenching these brotherly relations. We found that the brothers in this good country have true intentions and sentiments brimming with love and hospitality. The president added: We consider this meeting between the two countries' leaders an advanced step toward developing and reinforcing existing bilateral relations to achieve joint interests and fulfill the aspirations of the two fraternal peoples.

He added: Yemen proved its credibility by signing a memorandum of understanding between the two countries, which is considered the most important accomplishment on the road to cementing brotherly relations between the two peoples and developing and expanding prospects for cooperation between the two sisterly countries which are joined together by common interests and historical ties. The Arabian Peninsula is the homeland of the Yemeni and Saudi peoples who struggled through the various stages of history to defend themselves and their holy places against invaders and covetous ones.

He touched on the situation and circumstances our country has witnessed following the achievement of unity, and on the secessionist war and its painful consequences. He referred to the efforts made to overcome these consequences as well as state and government efforts to develop the country and implement the economic, financial, and administrative reform program. He said: Acts of sabotage are easy, but reconstruction and reform efforts are arduous and require true intentions and solid willpower. He stressed our ability to overcome all challenges and difficulties, build the modern Yemeni state — a state of law, order, and institutions — and provide the right climate for investment to citizens, businessmen, and investors. Referring to the practical measures being taken to establish a free zone in Aden, he said: The state is now working on removing the repercussions of the past and tackling all the problems created by the nationalization law for the sake of restoring owners' rights and guaranteeing the interests of all. He noted the steps and measures taken by the government to remove all obstacles to investment in order to provide facilities and a suitable climate for investment, and to guarantee investors' rights.

The meeting was attended by members of the delegation accompanying the president and Dr. Muhammad al-Kabab, Yemen's ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Delegations Meet on Border Accord

LD0606140995 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1307 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Jeddah, 6 May (SPA) — Saudi and Yemeni delegations met today under the chairmanship of Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the Saudi foreign minister; and Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, the Yemeni deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to carry out the instructions of King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, and Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih and to follow up steps taken to implement the memorandum of understanding signed by the two sides on 26 February, and to ensure its implementation in a way that will maintain existing relations between the two brotherly countries and build them on strong and firm bases. [passage omitted]

Council Approves Entry of Palestinian Products

LD0506153295 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the chairmanship of Amir Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the second deputy prime minister, defense and aviation minister, and inspector general, the Council of Ministers held its weekly session at al-Salam palace in Jeddah this afternoon. [passage omitted]

The council issued the following resolutions:

1. Approving the measures of the entry of Palestinian national products into the Saudi markets. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Bosnian Prime Minister Continues Official Visit

Delegations Open Talks

AU0606204395 Sarajevo Radio Bosnia-Herzegovina Network in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] At the invitation of the Government of the United Arab Emirates, the delegation of the Government of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina, headed by Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic, arrived in Abu Dhabi. Here is Senada Cumurovic reporting from the Emirates:

[Cumurovic] Haris Silajdzic and Jadranko Prlic, prime minister and deputy prime minister respectively, as well as Ministers Faruk Smailbegovic and Muharem Cero, were welcomed at the Abu Dhabi airport by Sheik Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan who is the son of the Emirates president and deputy chairman of the country's ministerial council.

The planned talks with the Emirates' delegation and Sultan Bin-Zayid opened in the afternoon. Dr. Silajdzic presented to his hosts the current situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina that is characterized by conspicuous activities and attacks by the Serb aggressor. During this visit he also pointed out the Bosnian Government's stand that friendly countries can engage themselves more on the diplomatic and material plane with a view to helping defend against the aggressor.

It is high time, the prime minister said, for the world to turn its verbal support into [word indistinct], reiterating the stand that Bosnia remains committed to the known views proposed by the international community as well.

It was said during today's talks with the representative of the United Arab Emirates that the issue of the arms embargo leads to a quicker solution and establishing a balance.

The hosts led by Sultan Bin-Zayid expressed their readiness to take part in the program of renovation and construction of Bosnia-Herzegovina in which the country's experts will also take part.

This visit and the talks have been assessed by our delegation members as very positive because they open the possibilities of better cooperation between the two countries and stronger support from the Emirates to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The media, particularly the Dubai Satellite Program which is being broadcast to the majority of countries, have been devoting special attention to Bosnia-Herzegovina since yesterday. It was in this context that Haris Silajdzic's news conference was held after the official talks today as well. This time, again, journalists were above all interested in questions concerning the arms embargo imposed on the Bosnian Government, which, according to the prime minister, represents participation in the genocide.

Speaking about the situation of the UN hostages taken by the Bosnian Serb terrorist forces, Silajdzic said that this is a grave and sad situation, but that Bosnians and Herzegovinians have unfortunately been held hostage by the international community for the fourth year already. Commenting on Russia's stand, he expressed the opinion that, although it is Serbia's ally, as long as it recognizes the integrity and sovereignty of Bosnia-Herzegovina, we consider that behavior tolerable [podnosljiv].

This evening, Prime Minister Silajdzic and the delegation of the Government of the Republic and Federation of Bosnia-Herzegovina are invited by the ruler of the United Emirates, Sultan (al Kaseni). Tomorrow, Haris Silajdzic leaves for a working visit to the United States.

Deputy Prime Minister Meets Silajdzic

*JN0606195695 Manama WAKH in Arabic
1830 GMT 6 Jun 95*

[FBIS Translated Text] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jun (INA) — An official round of talks was held in Abu Dhabi today between a United Arab Emirates [UAE] team headed by Deputy Prime Minister Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan and a Bosnia-Herzegovina delegation, headed by Prime Minister Dr. Haris Silajdzic, who is currently visiting the UAE.

Shaykh Sultan underlined the UAE's support for the Muslim people of Bosnia-Herzegovina in the face of the repeated Serb aggression and their defiance of the world community.

Following the round of talks with Silajdzic, Shaykh Sultan said the UAE is keen to provide material and moral support to the Muslim Bosnian people to help them face all the challenges imposed on them by the Serb aggression. He stressed that the UAE views with concern the recent Serb escalation against the peaceful Bosnian people and the UN Protection Force. He said the UAE regrets these aggressive acts against international legitimacy and the Bosnian people in the UN-declared safe havens.

Shaykh Sultan Bin-Zayid Al Nuhayyan said he is sorry about the many innocent victims as a result of the indiscriminate Serb shelling of the safe havens and denounced the Serb attacks, including the savage aggression against Gorazde, Bihac, and Sarajevo neighborhoods. He noted in this regard the assassination of the Bosnian foreign minister and the downing of a U.S. aircraft. He said these are savage and irresponsible acts by the Bosnian Serbs and confirm that the Serb leadership in Bosnia does not respect international law or norms.

The UAE deputy prime minister demanded an end to the arms embargo imposed on the legitimate government in Bosnia-Herzegovina to enable it to face the Serb aggression. He also asked the world community to put an end to the Serb defiance of UN troops and to find a just and comprehensive solution to the Bosnia-Herzegovina problem.

He also demanded the provision of material and moral support to the Bosnian people, who had to put up with the calamities resulting from the repeated and ceaseless Serb attacks against them. He said he hopes an end can be put to the murder of the Muslim people.

Arab League Chief 'Abd-al-Majid Holds Consultations

Confers With Shaykh Zayid

JN0606111995 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, the president of the state, received at al-Jurf Palace this morning His Excellency Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Arab League secretary general, who is currently visiting the country.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with the current Arab situation and the efforts to clear up Arab differences and enhance joint Arab action during the next stage. [passage omitted]

Views Iraq, Arab Affairs

NC0606183095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Abu Dhabi, 6 Jun (MENA) — Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has affirmed that the Arab League wishes to achieve pan-Arab reconciliation on the basis of frank exchanges among all the Arab countries. He declared: "Unless we discuss things frankly with each other, we will not have a reconciliation."

In remarks to MENA's correspondent in Abu Dhabi this evening 'Abd-al-Majid said that reconciliation needs certain conditions to be fulfilled, the most important of which would be Iraq's commitment to implement UN Security Council resolutions that Iraq has accepted and some of which it has actually implemented, "notably recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and independence and accepting border demarcation with Kuwait in line with UN resolutions."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid noted that this Iraqi step was welcomed by the Gulf Cooperation Council summit held in December 1994 and was seen as a positive step in the right direction.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid pointed out that the statement made today by Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in which he welcomed the prospect of the Iraqi people's return to Arab ranks demonstrates this tendency toward a reconciliation. The Arab League secretary general expressed hope that Iraq will complete implementing the remaining UN resolutions including settling the properties and the POW issues. He noted that the last item is a humanitarian, rather than a political affair. He added that the Arab League hopes that when this happens it will mark the stage when Arab reconciliation is achieved on sound foundations.

The secretary general denied any present preparations for an Arab summit that will debate reconciliation, saying: "This issue is not currently in the cards."

Regarding the Arab minisummit that was to be convened to debate the Jerusalem issue and Israel's attempt to usurp new land, 'Abd-al-Majid said that this issue was one of the subjects he discussed during his current visit to the United Arab Emirates, which is the chairman of the current Arab League term. He said he will discuss the issue further during his visit to Bahrain. Bahrain will assume chairmanship of the Arab League's next term in September 1995.

On this matter Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid declared: "We believe that the efforts we have made to unite Arab positions over the Jerusalem issue, even if this was carried out in the context of a few countries only, is in itself an achievement in the right direction."

He explained that the minisummit that had been planned for 27 May was suspended pending the clarification of the Israeli position, noting that Israel suspended the land expropriation order. He said: "We are waiting. We wish to see the land expropriation order canceled altogether."

Asked if there are direct contacts between the Arab League and Iraq for the purpose of ending inter-Arab disputes, the secretary general said that contacts between the League and Iraq are continuing. He noted that the last contact was his meeting with the Iraqi ambassador to Cairo two days ago.

He remarked: "The Arab League wishes to settle any unresolved issues." [passage omitted]

Court Upholds 8-Year Jail Sentence on Americans

JN0706103095 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] It was announced in Baghdad today that the Iraqi Court of Cassation has upheld the eight-year prison sentence against the two U.S. citizens who crossed the Iraqi-Kuwaiti border in March.

Under Iraqi law, the appeal to the Court of Cassation filed by the two Americans is their last legal resort, and their only alternative now is to submit a plea for pardon to President Saddam Husayn.

Saddam Chairs Council of Ministers Session

JN0606191395 Baghdad Iraq Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, has said that the state of Iraq has been, and will continue to be, clear, principled, and frank in its relations with other states, with foreign friendly institutions and companies, or with those who have views different from ours, and even with those who insist on their evil position.

His excellency added: This principled policy of building and running political and economic relations entrenches the concepts of mutual respect and reduces the opportunities for the intentions designed to make games behind the scenes or to agree to one thing while doing another.

The president leader, may God preserve him, made these remarks while chairing the 22d session of the Council of Ministers. The Council acquainted itself with the results of the grain marketing campaign which anticipates an abundant harvest.

The president leader ordered continuing following up in the field of the campaign by the comrade party members and administrative officials from all ranks, as well as submitting schedules on marketing achievements at the governorate, district, and subdistrict levels, along with the names and addresses of each party and administrative official in order to get acquainted with the performance of each in this campaign and with the level of their follow-up, so that those who fail to carry out their duty will be held accountable and the diligent ones will be rewarded.

The Council also discussed the topics on its agenda, including a number of organizational and economic issues, and made the appropriate decisions on them.

National Council Official Seeks Improved Turkish Ties

NC0706075095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Ankara, 7 Jun (MENA) — Safa' al-'Umar, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee at the Iraqi National Council, said today that Iraq and Turkey have agreed to close the file on the Turkish military operation against Kurdistan Workers Party bases in northern Iraq and to turn over a new leaf in relations between the two countries.

He told a MENA correspondent in Ankara today that he informed the Turkish officials with whom he met in Ankara that his country rejects the negotiations which the Turkish Government is holding with Iraqi Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani as interference in Iraq's domestic affairs. He said northern Iraq is not an independent entity but part of Iraq, and any dialogue must be conducted with the central Iraqi Government.

He said he told Turkish Foreign Minister Erdal Inonu and Parliament Speaker Husamettin Cindoruk that Baghdad rejects extending the mission of the Poised Hammer forces, which the United States, Britain, and France formed after the Gulf war, because they violate the sovereignty and territorial integrity of both Iraq and Turkey.

He said that during his visit, made at the invitation of Mumtaz Soysal, chairman of the Turkish parliament's Foreign Relations Committee, it was agreed to strengthen Iraqi-Turkish relations in all areas.

Al-'Umar said the Iraqi Government is now engaged in a diplomatic drive to convince the UN Security Council member states to lift the economic embargo against Iraq.

He said his country has repaired and rebuilt all factories and facilities destroyed in the war, the last such action being the reconstruction of the suspension bridge in April.

He said Iraq supports clearing the Arab air and uniting Arab ranks because this would be a major gain for the Arab nation. He said Iraq supports a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, without any country being excluded from this effort, so that stability can prevail in the region. He said that another oil pipeline between Baghdad and al-'Aqabah [in Jordan] will not be an alternative to, but a support for, the existing pipeline between Iraq and Turkey.

Ramadan Confers With Sudanese Second Vice President

JN0306194595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1900 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA) — Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan today received Sudanese Second Vice President George Kongor and his delegation.

During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan said that he is happy with the outcome of the Iraqi-Sudanese meetings held to identify new areas of economic, scientific, and technical cooperation. He noted that this effort acquires added significance because it is being made in the circumstances of the unfair sanctions; and this reflects a real determination to cope with difficulties.

The vice president asserted that the potential of our Arab nation will triumph over all the methods used to weaken it; and this will be in the common interests of the Arab states. The materialization of the Arabs' ability to cope with hardship will have a far-reaching effect, given the current tough circumstances in which the Arab nation is facing plots hatched by colonialist forces, Ramadan argued.

For his part, George Knogor expressed his appreciation for the enhanced fraternal bilateral ties, and noted a desire to further promote them in the common interest of the two countries.

Talks Conclude, Statement Issued

JN0406074395 Baghdad INA in Arabic
2030 GMT 3 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 3 Jun (INA) — Official talks between Iraq and Sudan concluded in Baghdad this evening. The Iraqi side to the talks was chaired by Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan, while the Sudanese side was headed by Sudanese Second Vice President George Kongor.

A press statement was issued voicing the two countries' keenness on Sudan's unity, safety, and sovereignty. It also commended and voiced support for the Sudanese Government's endeavor to establish peace in southern Sudan. The statement rejected and condemned foreign plots targeting the sovereignty and unity of Sudan.

The two sides asserted that the Security Council should fulfill its obligations toward Iraq through the immediate implementation of Paragraph 22 of Security Council Resolution 687 without any restrictions or additions, given that Iraq has substantially met all the requirements of the said resolution.

Vice President Ramadan Receives Libyan Official

JN0506164595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1403 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 5 Jun (INA) — Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan received 'Abd-al-Hamid Bin-'Ammar, Arab relations coordinator general at the Libyan Revolutionary Committees Movement, and his accompanying delegation.

Bin-'Ammar conveyed Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's greetings to his brother President Saddam Husayn. He also conveyed Libya's pride — the people's and the leadership's — in the firm pan-Arab stands of the Iraqi leadership and people as they defend the Arab nation's causes against all forces of colonialism and treason.

In the name of President Saddam Husayn, Taha Yasin Ramadan expressed thanks for Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's greetings and sentiments. He asked him to convey President Saddam Husayn's greetings to his brother al-Qadhdhafi. Ramadan stressed that Iraq — the leadership and people — adhere to their pan-Arab stands and will continue to defend the Arab nation's existence and future regardless of sacrifices. He stressed that Iraq will continue work to accomplish its Arab mission and perform its honorable pan-Arab responsibility.

The vice president stressed that the heightened conspiracies against Iraq and the Arab nation are indication of their strength and of their enemies' fear. He indicated that the final say rests with the Arab masses and their revolutionary forces rejecting the policies of hegemony, colonialism, and subservience, not with the servile agents and capitulationists.

'Abd-al-Hamid Bin-'Ammar said that the aggression and continued blockade against Iraq are an aggression and a blockade against the entire Arab nation. He stressed that the Libyan people, who are besieged by the United States and its allies, will continue to support the Iraqi people in resisting the schemes of the enemies and their agents.

The meeting was attended by 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hashimi, director of the Foreign Relations Bureau at the Iraq command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

U.S. 'Inertia' in Bosnia-Herzegovina Criticized

JN0706104895 Baghdad INA in English
0900 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, June 7, INA — Recent developments in former Yugoslavia have once more brought into the limelight the role of the United

Nations as a peace broker, the English-language BAGHDAD OBSERVER daily said .

In its today editorial, the paper added that [given] the background of implacable resolve by NATO, the Contact Group, the European Union and others who were varyingly involved in the Bosnian crisis, the UN blue berets should have been immune from any such acts like that by the Bosnian troops, who led scores of the peacekeepers to a most unpredicted from of captivity to be used as human shields to forestall any future air strikes at Bosnian Serb positions.

The Bosnian Serbs went even further to shoot down a U.S. warplane, and a couple of days later, Bosnian Serbs made no bones about announcing they took the American pilot captive.

When the first news reports about the UN troops' dilemma began to surface, observers expected such a response by the UN, or at least by these troops' states that would restore the international organization's image as a reputable peace broker.

Britain's response was surprisingly lukewarm, resorting to diplomacy just to secure the release of British troops serving in UN uniforms, suddenly, all the jingoism that characterized London's attitude before, during and after the Gulf events tapered into maximum self-restraint, appeals, and first class diplomacy.

There were no warnings or threats, nothing ominous to Bosnian Serbs, save the dispatch of a new contingent to Bosnia. Britain has done nothing to indicate it is itching for a real at defiant Bosnian Serbs.

France's response of sending an aircraft carrier was more a political gesture than anything serious given that the French blue-berets have borne the brunt of Serbian attacks.

However, what is specially striking is Washington's inertia. This time, the White House said it loud and clear it will not commit any American troops to the Bosnian crisis. The U.S. is ready to provide military support, namely air strikes if and when hostilities break out.

This dramatic perspective is in sharp contrast with the response by Washington, London and some other Western capitals to any trouble facing, not UN inspectors in Iraq but their tasks. Any attempt by Iraq to stem the rabid moves of UN inspectors, to safeguard its sovereignty and national pride, has in most cases provoked an uproar about Baghdad's defiance to the international legitimacy.

Hordes of UN inspectors have flocked into Iraq, smashing gates, breaking doors and teaching burglars how to open safes, doing everything provocative with impunity counting on what seems to be absolute backing by Washington and London.

The UN operations in Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Iraq and elsewhere in the world's flash points reveal an appalling state of of political inconsistency and double standards that put in question the very role for which the UN was established .

Recent events have actually tested the mettle of the international organization. It is at the mercy of U.S. political whims. It could be something to reckon with here, but a pitiful group of helpless blue-berets elsewhere in the world.

Paper Stresses Arab Responsiblity for Sanctions

JN0706085695 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0720 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 7 Jun (INA) — The newspaper AL-JUMHURIYAH has stressed that those who are deliberately tainting the image of Iraq, its icons, and national sanctities, and working against it are taking "confident" steps in the direction of normalization with the Zionist entity.

In an article today, the paper indicates that deliberate attempts are being made to harm the Iraqi people. Several parties, including the United States, Zionism, the Kuwaiti rulers, and others, are involved in these attempts. Flimsy and flagrant excuses are being used to justify these attempts, which are at the heart of the U.S.-Zionist endeavor to keep the Iraq sanctions in place.

The paper notes the virtual consensus that emerged at the recent Arab Popular Forces Conference held in Baghdad that the Iraqi sanctions are first and foremost Arab, and that the Arabs could revoke the sanctions if their governments make serious and sincere efforts toward that end.

The paper adds: Several Arab governments do not seek a revocation of the sanctions. They, particularly the Kuwaiti Government, are doing everything in their power to keep the sanctions in place, and even to toughen them. Meanwhile, there are other Arab governments that wish to see the sanctions lifted. Nonetheless, they are not applying any pressures to achieve this goal. They have chosen to confine their sympathy with Iraq to "pure sentiments."

The paper goes on to say: The worst farce of this rotten Arab age is that those who have championed democracy and human rights have turned into tyrants. Their championship of democracy and human rights has been used as a tactic to appease the United States and Zionism.

The paper asserts that the Arab people in general, and the Iraqis in particular, have taken firm positions that have kept and will keep future horizons open despite the wishes of global dictatorships and their lackeys.

The paper concludes its article by saying: Will those Arabs understand the profound and far-reaching significance of pursuing a policy that is hostile to the people of Iraq?

Rabin 'Vehemently' Denies 'Secret Talks' With Syria

TA0706073595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the opening of the cabinet session this morning, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin vehemently denied all the reports about the secret talks that are ostensibly being held between Syrian and Israeli officials. These reports are untrue, Rabin said, stressing that such talks never took place. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that the prime minister was referring to a report published by the Arab newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, which appears in London.

The newspaper reported significant progress in the negotiations between Syria and Israel. The paper asserts that the Syrians received guarantees from the United States and Israel with regard to the national referendum and that Syria also declared that it reserves the right to hold a national referendum of its own. AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT reports that Syria has stopped insisting on geographical equality in the security arrangements and that Israel has waived its demand that the international border serve as the final border between the two countries. The paper reports that the agreements were reached in secret contacts held in Europe over the last two weeks between senior officials from both countries. [passage omitted]

Peres Denies 'Secret Talks' With Syria

TA0706060595 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0400 GMT 7 Jun 95

[Telephone interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan; place not given — live]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Friedman] Good morning to Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] Do you want to start by discussing the weather?

[Peres] Why not?

[Friedman] Is it just our feeling or is there really a warm wind blowing toward us from Damascus?

[Peres] Yes, but it is still nothing more than hot air.

[Friedman, laughing] Yesterday, Brigadier General Ya'aqov 'Ami-Dror, head of the Intelligence Branch's research department, expressed the assessment that Syria has agreed to make progress in the negotiations out of the understanding that Israel is prepared to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders.

[Peres] Did the intelligence officer's remarks refer to Israel or to Syria? He is not supposed to express assessments about Israel. In my opinion, these are merely unfounded speculations at this stage.

[Dan] Can you confirm that some progress has been made in the contacts held in recent days?

[Peres] It depends what you call progress. If you mean that the talks will resume on what is perhaps the most important issue — the security arrangements — then the answer is definitely yes. There are all the chances in the world that this will happen.

[Friedman] Are you referring to the meetings between the chiefs of staff?

[Peres] It may be just senior officers in the beginning and only later the chiefs of staff. When Dennis Ross returns from Damascus, we will know which level of talks the Syrians prefer. These are talks between senior military officials dealing with security arrangements.

[Dan] What does Dennis Ross mean when he reports back to Clinton that Prime Minister Rabin has adopted more flexible positions?

[Peres] I think that we have always presented a flexible stance. What do you mean by greater flexibility? We have been very open about everything and have not concealed our views. Israel is very serious in its desire to reach an agreement with Syria. Clearly, we would like to achieve this as soon as possible and, with this in mind, we are definitely willing to make territorial compromises.

[Dan] AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, an Arab newspaper published in London, reported that Israel has agreed to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders.

[Peres] Yes. This newspaper also claimed that everything has already been agreed upon in secret talks. This paper must be desperately seeking to increase its circulation.

[Friedman] So there are no secret talks in Europe?

[Peres] There are no secret talks in Europe, and all the rest is just media speculation.

[Friedman] Look, maybe the talks are so secret that even you do not know about them?

[Peres] If that is the case, why are you interviewing me? Make up your mind.

[Friedman, laughing] Well, you might have given us a different answer. What do you think of Clinton's statement that a peace treaty between Syria and Israel can be achieved by the end of 1995? Is this wishful thinking or is there some realistic basis for this assessment?

[Peres] There is a chance of achieving this, but we still have many difficulties to surmount, and this is no simple matter. Clearly, things look a little better than in the past, but we still have a whole road full of potholes ahead of us.

[Dan] Mr. Peres, you know that a mass rally was held at Kibbutz Elrom on the Golan Heights last night. The people there are very tense. Could you give the residents there a clearer message?

[Peres] I do not think I can be any clearer than I have just been. The residents there are fully aware of the government's position. I do not think we can or should issue statements simply because of their mood, which, by the way, I can understand perfectly.

[Dan] They believe they will be the first settlement to be evacuated.

[Peres] I do not think they have any grounds to think so. I do not think anyone has named the first settlement yet.

[Friedman] Mr. Peres, if we were to ask you to define the main bone of contention between Syria and Israel today — now that you have publicly and explicitly explained your position with regard to the depth of withdrawal — what is really holding up dramatic progress in the negotiations?

[Peres] There is still no agreement on the security arrangements.

[Friedman] But the Syrians have dropped their demand for geographical equality.

[Peres] They have not dropped the demand. They have stopped presenting it as a precondition; however, they will undoubtedly reassert their positions. And even if one assumes that the Syrians have dropped their demand for equality, it still remains unclear what they will accept. In my opinion, we have still not found a formula that will be mutually acceptable to both sides. Afterwards, there is the matter of the timeframe for implementing the agreement. Then you have the nature of peace and normalization. Then there is the matter of the final withdrawal lines. No agreement has been reached yet on any of this.

[Dan] Are the parties considering the possibility of setting up U.S. early warning stations?

[Peres] The Americans may raise such a proposal. At this stage, everything is open and nothing has been closed.

[Friedman] By the way, are the Americans presenting proposals? Until now, everyone thought the United States was just a mediator between the sides.

[Peres] Let us say that the Americans can ask the parties for their opinion about certain proposals. Why not?

[Dan] One last question: Will a trilateral summit be held in Cairo on 9 June?

[Peres] Nothing has been finalized yet. We will decide today or tomorrow at the latest.

[Friedman] This is a week for important decisions, is it not?

[Peres] These are tactical moves, not far-reaching strategic decisions.

[Friedman] Thank you very much, Foreign Minister Peres.

Intelligence Officer on Syria, PA 'Terror'

TA0606183295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jun 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brigadier General Ya'aqov 'Ami-Dror, deputy chief of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Intelligence Branch and head of research, says that the Syrians will not agree to the peace agreement with Israel stipulating whether or not they may stay in Lebanon, rule it, or influence events in it. Gen. 'Ami-Dror was speaking to the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Our Knesset correspondent Dan Scemama reports that 'Ami-Dror warned that nests of terror might be created in the West Bank cities that will be handed over to the Palestinian Authority [PA] in the interim stage of the agreement. According to him, PA Chairman Yasir 'Arafat might allow such terror to operate in a fashion similar to that in Gaza if he believes it serves Palestinian interests. 'Arafat will fight the terror hotbeds, Gen. 'Ami-Dror believes, only if Israel's reaction is very determined.

Normalization, Not Security Said Needed With Syria

TA0506153695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 5 Jun 95 p 3

[Commentary by Alex Fishman: "A Valium for the Masses"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Various General Staff offices, including that of the head of Military Intelligence, are currently preparing for a "meeting of generals" to discuss the security arrangements with the Syrians. They are going over plans, like Major General Ilan Biran's document for a security arrangement prepared over a year ago, studying papers prepared by the Planning Department, and are being updated on material gathered by Military Intelligence on the Syrian view of the security arrangements. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin announced that the security arrangements would precede all the other components of the peace process with Syria in order to allay public concern about a possible agreement with Syria involving a concession on the Golan Heights, and the General Staff is cooperating.

It is obvious to all professional and intellectually honest officers that what is regarded by the public as "security arrangements," — that is, military accords that will make sure that the Syrians do not have the option of initiating a successful war — is based on a misunderstanding. Contrary to the military annex in the peace agreement with Egypt, the military annex in any future accord with Syria will, in any case, constitute one of the weaker anchors of the peace accord with that country. Security arrangements with Syria will mainly be an expression of goodwill and will serve as a lever to build mutual trust, but there is no real link between them and issues of war.

The Golan Heights is militarily important for four reasons: It permits the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] "to see" the areas where an army preparing for an offensive east of the Golan Heights will have to carry out maneuvers. It constitutes an area for training, maneuvers, and concentration of forces in the defense of the State of Israel. It makes a very good opening position for IDF preparations for an attack on Damascus. It prevents the Syrians from observing what is happening in our territory.

Security arrangements are meant to compensate for the loss of those four factors if there is a withdrawal from the plateau and to make sure the Syrians will not have the ability or the desire to attack. The compensation can only be realized by a significant reduction of the Syrian Army. There are those who believe that the necessary minimum is to cut it by up to half and to significantly increase the range of early warning, that is, putting the Syrian Army at a distance of three to four days travel from the border, while maintaining surveillance of its movements. Maneuvering between the components is suggested: Less reduction, more distance, and the other way round. By the way, after the Six-Day War, King Husayn cut his army in order "to shy away" from the attraction of attacking Israel.

After the meeting of the generals in December 1994, al-Asad announced that he was "offended" by the Israeli demand to reduce his army. Anyway, cutting the Syrian Army in half is a dream. Al- Asad's position on the Syrian Army's redeployment far from the Israeli border is still unclear, but the Turkish Government already has something to say on the issue. The Turks warned those concerned against large Syrian Army concentrations close to their border. It appears that we are not alone in the regional security equation.

The demilitarization of the Sinai desert unlike that of the Golan Heights has real military significance. For an Egyptian military force of three armies to deploy on the western border of the State of Israel requires at least three to four days, and even then only if there are no surprises. It will have to cross hundreds of kilometers of desert and set in operation a huge logistical system to supply the forces even prior to the first day of fighting. Under a demilitarization and thinning out of forces on the Golan Heights, even if the Syrian Army pulls its troops back to Damascus, it will not need more than 24 hours to shell the Hula Valley. It will not have to stop to stock up on ammunition and refuel and can cross 60-70 km in a 10-hour drive. Even if the security arrangements make sure that the IDF has full prior knowledge of a Syrian decision to move, the warning will not be earlier than 24 hours. And in the Galilee, the IDF has no chance of a deployment that will hold up such a force within a reasonable time. The Galilee, all the land from the Golan westward, is dense with settlements, planted fields, tourist sites, and crowded roads. Even if the IDF tries very hard, it will succeed in deploying only part, and not too much, of what it currently has on the Golan. Furthermore, no obstacles that even resemble what we have on the Golan can be built there.

Any attempt to present the peace accord with Syria as a mirror image of the security arrangements with Egypt is aimed at deceiving the people. Peace with Syria cannot be based on security arrangements — which will not come about — but on the character of the normalization and the pace of its implementation.

Likud Demands Briefing on Syria Negotiations

TA0706092495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Likud Knesset faction is demanding that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin immediately appear before the Knesset's Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee in order to present a full and updated briefing on the negotiations with Syria. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the Likud announcement stated that previous denials by Rabin and Foreign Minister Peres with regard to the state of the negotiations with the Syrians and Palestinians had subsequently proved to be a smokescreen. [passage omitted]

SHAS Requests Delay in Debate on Golan Bill

TA0706050495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] At the request of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], the Knesset will not today discuss legislation on the Golan Heights presented by Labor dissident MK's [Knesset Members] Qahalani, Shefi, and Zismann. SHAS, which might provide the swing vote, asked that the debate be delayed for a week. [passage omitted]

Labor MK Qahalani To Quit Party Over Golan Bill

TA0606180495 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 6 Jun 95

[Dan Scemama video report]

[FBIS Translated Text] Labor Knesset Member [MK] Avigdor Qahalani has decided to vote for the Golan bolstering bill [stipulating that a Knesset agreement to cede territory on the Golan would require a special majority] despite the fact that such a vote on his part would deprive him of the right to run for the Knesset on the Labor ticket. Knesset debate of the bill was postponed until next week, following a request by SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

[Begin recording] [Scemama] This afternoon, the Knesset House Committee made a decision in principle: A bill by any MK is considered his own property, and he may raise it for discussion [regardless of his faction's stand]. But Labor MK's 'Imanu'el Zismann, Ya'aqov Shefi, and Avigdor Qahalani did not rejoice. The faction chairman left them with only one alternative: You may submit your bill, but you will not vote for it. If you do....

[Qahalani] The MK will be deciding to remove himself from the faction.

[Scemama] In the meeting, Qahalani told the other two MK's: You — Zismann and Shefi — abstain from voting; do not go all the way. My political career outside Labor is guaranteed, yours is not. Shefi hesitated; Zismann decided to abstain.

[Zismann] The question is whether I should keep struggling, with a good chance of succeeding — inside Labor — or leave.

[Scemama] Hence, Zismann will not vote for his own bill, but Qahalani will, and he is on his way out of Labor and into the Third Way.

[Qahalani] If I remain in politics, I will gather a political body around me and together we will charge. I do not believe that I will join another body. [end recording]

Levi Camp, Labor's Qeysar Meet on New Party

TA0706050095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Supporters of David Levi say they're holding talks with Transport Minister Yisra'el Qeysar to join the new political party being formed by Levi. Dimona Mayor Gabi Lalouche says Levi and Qeysar have similar ideas on social issues. Qeysar aides have confirmed contacts have taken place but added that Qeysar has yet to decide on whether to back Levi.

Lod Mayor Maxim Levi says there's now no doubt that his brother will form a new party. He told Israel Radio the announcement will be made after a meeting of the Levi camp on June 18th.

Germany's Kohl Pays Visit, Meets With Leaders

Arrives in Israel

TA0506150295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] German Chancellor Kohl began his visit to Israel following the trilateral summit at Naharayim. Kohl first left for 'Akko.

This afternoon he will make a private visit to Jerusalem and this evening he will meet with the mother of missing navigator Ron Arad. The chancellor will begin his official visit to Israel tomorrow.

Notes 'Deep Shame' Over Holocaust

TA0606111995 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl signed in the Yad Vashem visitors book this morning that Germans feel deep shame over what was done in their name to innocent people. The chancellor said that what happened in the Holocaust should not just serve as a memory but also as a guide in shaping the future. Kohl officially opened his visit to Israel this morning. David Ze'ev reports:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Chancellor Helmut Kohl, speaking through an interpreter, spoke of the Nazi era but also of the present and future.

[Unidentified interpreter] We shall remember the terrible deeds that were perpetrated in the German name, in the name of the German people, and that were perpetrated first and foremost against the Jewish people. But I would like to use this opportunity here on this June day in 1995 to assure all of you that the lessons have been drawn out of this period of the National Socialist reign of terror from 1933 to 1945 and that these lessons are part and parcel of German democracy.

[Ze'ev] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in his welcoming message, said the visit opens an additional new chapter in the history of German-Israeli relations, but that we are not permitted nor do we want to forget the terrible past. At Yad Vashem, the chancellor visited the Valley of the Destroyed Communities and the Lodz Exhibition, as well as the Children's Museum, in addition to the Hall of Remembrance, where the traditional memorial ceremony was held with Chancellor Kohl laying a wreath. [end recording]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 6 June adds that "German Chancellor Helmut Kohl met a short while ago with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The two men discussed the peace process, bilateral relations between Germany and Israel, and agreements with the EU."]

Comments on Arad, Iran, Peace Process

TA0606170095 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has pledged to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to do whatever he can to learn of the whereabouts of the Israeli navigator, Ron Arad, missing since 1986. The chancellor also said he would work to speed up the establishment of the EU-Israeli free trade zone. The two men met today at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem. David Ze'ev has the details.

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] After previous statements stressing Israeli criticism of German ties with Iran, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin chose this time, after his meeting with Chancellor Helmut Kohl, to thank him for efforts which are made possible through contacts with Tehran:

[Rabin] A special thank for him for his efforts to find the whereabouts of our navigator Ron Arad which he promised the family and myself to continue to do the utmost to find out about his whereabouts.

[Ze'ev] Chancellor Kohl angrily denied he does not support U.S. President Bill Clinton's sanctions against the Iranian regime, but he would only say this speaking through an interpreter:

[Unidentified interpreter] I am of the opinion that it is of the utmost importance that no additional nuclear dangers should be created from this part of the world. That has always been our policy, and it will remain our policy.

[Ze'ev] Prime Minister Rabin thanked the chancellor for his efforts in promoting Israeli economic integration into the EU. Kohl expected progress soon.

[Interpreter] In about three weeks' time, at the European Council meeting, I will give a report on my first-hand impressions from my trip here to the region.

[Ze'ev] The chancellor said his aim would be to speed up the process. Kohl later met with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres and members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, before attending a state dinner given by Prime Minister Rabin at his residence. [end recording]

[Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1600 GMT on 6 June adds: "German Chancellor Kohl met Foreign Minister Peres and encouraged him to continue with the peace process. Minister Peres asked the visitor to garner international aid for the construction of houses for the Palestinians in the territories, and Kohl said he would work on this issue."]

Volkswagen and the Dead Sea Works signed a memorandum of understanding for the construction of a magnesium plant at the Dead Sea. The signing ceremony took place at the Prime Minister's Office in Jerusalem and was witnessed by Prime Minister Rabin and visiting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl. The investment is the largest ever by a German company in Israel. The total investment in the magnesium complex is over $600 million, and Volkswagen will put up $220 million.

Participates in Joint News Conference

TA0606120595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1005 GMT 6 Jun 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The joint Rabin-Kohl news conference, which ended a short while ago, was held against the backdrop of the growing economic relations between Israel and Germany. In fact, several German economic giants are accompanying the chancellor on his trip to the region, and that means a lot of money, as we all know.

What interests the Israeli media more than anything else are the relations between Iran and Germany. The issue — which is potential dynamite that may threaten the Israeli-German relationship — was gingerly raised at the meeting between the two men. The issue was evaded by both Chancellor Kohl and Prime Minister Rabin at the joint news conference. [passage omitted]

Skirting a question on relations between his country and Iran, Chancellor Kohl said Germany believes that preventing another nuclear war in the Middle East is crucial; this has been and will be the official German policy. His remarks implied that Germany will at least try to battle the Iranian quest for a nuclear capability.

The prime minister also skirted the uncomfortable question:

[Begin recording] [Rabin] The issue of extreme Islamic terror perpetrated both by the Palestinians and Hizballah in Lebanon; the emergence of extreme Islamic terror in the North African states, such as Egypt and Algeria, and in other regions; and — the chancellor himself described this threat — even in Europe, or parts of Europe — all these were discussed. I will not discuss the chancellor's responses. Germany follows a policy of its own. I have been informed of it, but I will not discuss it.

[Raz] What about Iran?

[Rabin] Ditto. [end recording]

The prime minister did not wish to elaborate on the Iranian issue, which definitely featured in the meeting between him and Chancellor Kohl.

The prime minister was also asked about reports that a summit meeting between him, President Mubarak, and Secretary of State Warren Christopher would be held in Cairo over the coming weekend. Rabin replied that, generally speaking, such a meeting would be pointless without appropriate preparation. He is now waiting for Dennis Ross to return from Egypt; only then will he know whether such a meeting is warranted. His answer was something of an irregularity in the Israeli-Egyptian relationship, and the prime minister's failure to immediately agree to such a summit is in itself interesting.

Honored at Dinner; Rabin Speaks

TA0606152795 Jerusalem Government Press Office in English 6 Jun 95

[Issued by the Prime Minister's media adviser 'Aliza Goren]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The following is Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's speech at the dinner in honor of visiting German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Tuesday, 06.06.95:

Mr. Chancellor, Members of the German delegation, President of the Supreme Court, Speaker of the Knesset, My Colleagues, the Government ministers, Honored guests,

It is a great honor for us to host you in our home this evening in Jerusalem. Jerusalem will soon be celebrating its three-thousandth anniversary. Jerusalem, which was, and will always be, the heart of the Jewish people, to which we turn in our prayers, of whose gates we dream of entering from every corner of the world.

Mr. Chancellor, honored guests,

Every visit of a German Chancellor to Israel until now has been, as far as we are concerned — and I am sure that also as far as you are concerned — a visit highly charged with bitter memories of the past, with pain which will never be soothed.

Mr. Chancellor,

Your visit to Israel is taking place as the world celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the end of World War II and the victory over Nazism — that terrible racist doctrine which millions believed in, and which they turned into a license for genocide. We, the Jewish people, the victims of the Nazi death machine, cannot forget, and we will bear the pain of the Holocaust until the last generation — yet our faces are turned toward the future. We must build a state here, a nation, to establish peace and give our children and grandchildren fulfilling and stable lives. We have had enough of bloodshed, sorrow, pain.

Yet when we look toward the horizon, toward the future, toward the coming years, we — Israelis as well as Germans — have a reason to worry, both within Europe and beyond.

Outside of Europe, but on its borders, the extremist fundamentalist threat originating in Iran is growing stronger and stronger — and it threatens peace in the Middle East, and therefore peace in Europe and in the Free World.

Within Europe, including your own country, and without comparing it to the first threat, a new wave of fascism and neo-Nazism is arising, severe and deadly diseases which we had thought had disappeared from the world. Your country, Your Excellency, has a central role in working to stop the spread of extreme fundamentalism which shows no mercy on the way to its target — and your country plays a central role in eradicating neo-Nazism and fascism.

Part of the fight against extremist elements depends on a basic standard of living and is connected to it. Poverty is the source of extremism — and Germany today in its central role within the economy of Europe has the tools to bring peace to the world. We are sure you will do your best.

We here, from our home in Israel, follow with amazement the reunification of your country. The walls which you have broken down, the barbed wire fences which you have ripped up, the minefields which you have cleared, are shining examples to us of what might happen, and what should happen in our region as well, here in the Middle East: we are aware of the mounting difficulties which you face on the road to complete unity and sincerely hope that you will overcome them. We hope that we ourselves will follow this path and bring peace and an end to war in this region, even as the cold war ended strife and tension in yours.

You, Mr. Chancellor, are one of the senior partners in the efforts to end the Cold War, and as Jews and Israelis, as people dreaming of peace, we congratulate you and your nation on this achievement.

Mr. Chancellor, special relations have existed between Jerusalem and Bonn for thirty years, and even if these relations had their ups and downs, we always knew that we had someone in Europe to turn to, whether with praise or complaints. The few problems we had, mostly relating to issues arising out of the agreements of European unity, you heard today during the working session. Here this evening, we will devote the remaining time to thanks and praise:

This is an opportunity for me, in the name of the Government and citizens of the entire state, to thank you and your Government and people for the political support, the economic aid, the legislative initiative prohibiting denial of the Holocaust, help in the peace process with Jordan, for your personal role and the role of Germany in the phrasing of the Essen Declaration, help in the attempt to discover the fate of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] prisoners and MIAs, the fruitful and regular dialogue between our two states, for the special relationship.

Mr. Chancellor,

Your visit to our home takes place at an historic moment — yesterday you came with King Husayn from Jordan, and tomorrow you will meet with the Chairman of the Palestinian Authority. And all this was impossible, all this was a dream, only a year or two ago. This is a dramatic period. Peace is at the gate, and we are aware that because of its urgency and necessity, its arrival comes none too soon. Your country too has contributed to the establishing of peace and its advancement — and for that, please accept the gratitude of every Israeli child, the child for whom we are making peace.

Mr. Chancellor, Members of the Delegation,

Jerusalem welcomes you from the bottom of her heart.

Meets With Likud's Netanyahu

TA0706074495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] German Chancellor Helmut Kohl is on his way to Jericho to meet with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and discuss German economic aid to the Palestinian Authority. Our correspondent in Jericho Arye Gus reports that the PLO chairman has prepared an official and particularly festive reception for the German chancellor. Strict security measures have been adopted in the city, and policemen are deployed at every street corner.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that Chancellor Kohl met with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem this morning. Kohl invited Netanyahu to visit Germany. Netanyahu told our correspondent that judging from this morning's reports about the contacts between Syria and Israel, it appears that in the negotiations between the parties there was no process of give-and-take but rather just a policy of give-and-give on Israel's part.

Fundamentalists Targeting U.S. Interests Arrested

MM0606144895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Jun 95 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Jordan: Fundamentalist Organization That Planned To Hit U.S. Interests Uncovered"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — A well-informed source in Amman has revealed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Jordanian security authorities have arrested the leadership of a fundamentalist organization calling itself the "Islamic Renewal Group" [jama'at al-tajdid al-islami] whose first aim is to hit U.S. interests in the region.

The magistrate assigned to interrogate the defendants told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that he has completed the investigations with the six people who are accused of possessing TNT explosives, automatic weapons, and pistols and who set up an illegal organization called the "Islamic Renewal Group."

He added: "All the detainees are from the West Bank and have a presence there. They also admitted receiving financial support from the 'Jihad Squads' [Saraya al-jihad] movement in the West Bank."

The magistrate, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the defendants confessed that the organization's main aim is to hit U.S. interests and fight the Americans wherever they are, according to them.

He said that he has completed the investigations and will submit the indictment in preparation for referring them to court as soon as possible.

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the organization's leader is Jordanian and is called the "group's amir." Of Palestinian origin, he returned from Kuwait and is known as "Abu-Ashraf." He split from the Conveyance and Call Group [jama'at al-tabligh wa al-Da'wah], and most of those working with him are returnees from Kuwait.

As is known, Jordanian security authorities uncovered secret organizations belonging to the "Jordanian Afghans." The authorities brought some of them to trial and monitored the activities of some other fundamentalist groups operating outside the framework of the Islamic parties represented in the House of Representatives.

Since the signing of the peace treaty with Israel new groups opposed to the treaty have emerged to work to undermine it by all means.

Last Friday a clash occurred between security forces and a Jordanian citizen belonging to the Islamic tendency whom security services wanted to arrest and interrogate. As a result, the citizen and his brother were killed. Neither the dimensions of this incident nor the reasons that prompted the security authorities to make a move to arrest the citizen in question have become clear, nor is it known whether or not this is to do with stepping up measures against those opposed to the peace treaty.

It seems that the aim of the new organization whose members are being interrogated was to hit U.S., not Israeli, interests, and that all its members are from the West Bank.

It is not known whether the arrests in Jordan are linked to the campaigns conducted by Israel in the West Bank, which are aimed mainly against Hamas supporters.

Al-Kabariti Views Peace Process, Arab Relations

MM0706091195 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Jun 95 p 4

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti by Bassam Badarin in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Badarin] Some people assumed that the conclusion of the Jordanian-Israeli treaty meant the continuation of the honeymoon between the two sides. But matters seem to have changed in recent days. Why was that?

[Al-Kabariti] The Jerusalem issue has its particular significance for Jordan and the Jordanians and in particular for the Hashemites. So when the Israeli Government revealed its intention to confiscate Arab lands within the framework of the so-called "Greater Jerusalem," following the signing of the Palestinian-Israeli Peace and the Declaration of Principles Agreement, we felt that election pressures might tempt Israeli decisionmakers and Israeli public opinion formers to try to circumvent the text and spirit of the agreements without due consideration to the colossal dangers that such an action might bring about, and all that for the sake of achieving some likely temporary election gains only.

[Badarin] Could it be said that a genuine crisis has imposed itself on the relations between the two countries thereby affecting future Jordanian-Israeli relations?

[Al-Kabariti] I do not deny that the tension that followed the Israeli decision had reached a high level or degree of gravity despite the fact that Jordan had sincerely tried prior to the "escalation" of its position, by quiet diplomacy and precautionary diplomacy to hold intensive contacts with the Israeli side in an attempt to study the matter and prevent its worsening. But the Israeli response to the Jordanian attempts was not sufficient and stopped short of issuing a decision committing Israel to refrain from reconfiscating lands in future and did not revoke the original decision. This led to the escalation of official and popular protests which in turn led to the degree of tension you have referred to.

But when matters developed further, the Israelis felt that this affair has reached a stage that would threaten the entire peace process, particularly following their receiving a message from His Majesty the King [Husayn]. I believe that these conditions together with the honorable stands taken by Arab leaderships and parties in the Knesset have succeeded in defusing the crisis, if we can use such an expression.

[Badarin] Could it be said that the after-effects of this tension are still having an impact on the Jordanian-Israeli relations now?

[Al-Kabariti] Our contacts with the Israeli side are still continuing, and we are agreed not to let any crisis stand in the way of the diplomatic efforts which should take their course through dialogue and the exchange of letters and meetings between the officials of both sides. In all fairness, I must praise the role played by the Jordanian and Israeli ambassadors in Amman and Tel Aviv and their effective contribution toward containing the crisis.

[Badarin] Some of the Israeli press comments that were published during the Jerusalem crisis have accused you personally of acting out of your personal calculations as a member of parliament and not as a foreign minister. What do you say to that?

[Al-Kabariti] Most of the recent Israeli and American decisions in respect of the Middle East have taken elections into consideration and failed to give any due consideration to how far the Israeli and the American administrations would go in speeding up or impeding the peace process just for the sake of "consolidating" these [electoral] considerations. Besides, democracy is not the monopoly of the United States and Israel. Jordan too is proud of its democracy, its stands, and the considerations it believes should be taken into account so that there is "harmony" between public opinion and the official decisions. As they have their democracy and calculations, we too have a principled democracy which we take seriously.

[Badarin] What, in your opinion, are the causes of these personal Israeli accusations?

[Al-Kabariti] I have not heard or read any statements by any Israeli leader without his statements having electoral dimensions and calculations in all their aspects. Personally, I always demand that the relationship between the Jordanian negotiator and the Israeli Administration be based on the fact that the current administration has secured the required democratic majority of support based on an electoral program that supports peace with the Arab countries and that is committed to its terms and obligations. So when I find that electoral considerations affect the Israeli peace strategy thus turning the Israeli decision into a "tactical" reaction that had begun to deviate from the peace strategy, I must then in return take stands and make statements which might arouse the concern of some of the Israelis. But I do not see any justification for trying to depict this as a Jordanian stand that conflicts with the official and popular Jordanian line which seriously and truly seeks the realization of a well-balanced peace in which Israel's interest and particular understanding would not overshadow our national interests and our understanding of a lasting comprehensive, just and balanced peace.

[Badarin] Tension, as you say, has receded. But do you have any future mechanism which would ensure that no such tensions would take place that would impair the solidity of the nascent treaty?

[Al-Kabariti] We hope that after the treaty completes all its Jordanian constitutional steps and after the conclusion of all the agreements attached to the treaty in a manner which guarantees Jordanian national interests, we will have normal relations between us and Israel on both the official and popular levels. However, we do not ignore in this context the fact that Arab-Israeli relations have had a long history of animosity and hatred and that the establishment of normal relations requires time and the consolidation of feelings in the context of the benefits which the atmosphere of peace and confidence between the two sides would bring about.

Generally, it is only natural for conflicts to arise among countries. On our part, we consider any situation that might arise or has arisen between us and Israel as a natural thing which should be settled through resort to all peaceful and democratic means of pressure. I would like to cite in this regard, not as exclusive examples, the conflicts between Japan and the U.S. Administration and between the EU and Canada.

[Badarin] What is Jordan'a position on the recently announced development in the Syrian-Israeli peace process? What is your evaluation of what has been achieved so far between Syria and Israel?

[Al-Kabariti] The Arab-Israeli negotiations stem from a legal point of reference based on UN Security Council resolutions (242, 338, 425) as well as from a procedural point of reference based on Madrid which led to bilateral and multilateral processes. It must be stressed here that most of the Arab countries have a role to play on the "multilateral" level, which we had viewed, before agreeing to take part, as being one form of the international peace conference which Jordan has constantly called for, calling also for the participation of world countries in it. This has been realized by the multilateral process.

The recent breakthrough on the Syrian peace process which centered on procedural mechanisms agreed upon by Israel and Syria with direct American help and patronage reflect vital progress on the Syrian peace track, a matter which is bound to positively reverberate in the near future on the Lebanese track in view of the Syrian-Lebanese attachment and its considerations of which we all are aware.

It is entirely clear that the Syrian side has accepted the American proposals and definition of the security arrangements and conditions pertaining to the Syrian-Israeli peace process which is based on equilibrium and equality on both sides of the borders. We hope this will constitute the necessary step forward for reaching a comprehensive agreement based on full peace in return for all the land, which has been Syria's demand and which we always supported and understood. We will do all we can to help the peace train to reach the Golan Heights.

[Badarin] Do you know what was the result of the recent Syrian agreement after its formulation through the secret negotiations channels?

[Al-Kabariti] Secrecy is an elastic and flexible word. So the announcement of the meeting without the announcement of its contents could be interpreted as being a public meeting and can also be taken to mean a secret meeting. In the final analysis the meetings are judged by their results. We judge the Jordanian process through the treaty that was concluded and judge the Palestinian process through the Declaration of Principles Accord. We judge the Syrian process through the set of agreements that have been reached as a result of indirect talks held under American patronage.

[Badarin] Frankly, were you taken by surprise by the announcement of the Israeli-Syrian security accord?

[Al-Kabariti] We were not taken by surprise by this development because the declared Syrian attitude had always affirmed Syria's sure desire to reach an agreement that would realize its national interests. Nothing has emanated from the Syria side that would imply lack of desire to achieve an agreement in spite of the "loud voices" raised against the peace operation by certain factions and organizations which set up headquarters for themselves in Damascus. Syrian wisdom is well known and it refuses to allow "loud voices" to play a role in formulating stances or defining outcomes.

[Badarin] You have concluded a treaty, while the Palestinians have concluded a Declaration of Principles and the Syrians have concluded a security agreement. How do you distinguish between these positions?

[Al-Kabariti] The fact is that the Jordanian model might not be a suitable model to be followed by others, as there is no section in it that pertains to security arrangements and measures on the Jordanian borders with Israel. The Jordanian-Israeli treaty did not bind us by any measures or arrangements which would prevent our armed forces from taking up positions in any form or size they wish along the borders that separate Jordan and Israel. As the security measures were the basis and the springboard for the Syrian-Israeli agreement, I do not believe that it is fair to claim that the Jordanian model could apply in the case of Syria. What is most likely to apply as far as the Syrians are concerned is what took place on the Egyptian-Israeli borders under the Camp David accord which contained a section pertaining to security arrangements and measures.

[Badarin] What is the reason for the repeated Jordanian affirmations of the legitimacy of the PLO and the unity of the Palestinian command? What has prompted these affirmations which have become common features in Jordanian speeches?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordanian-Palestinian relations are essentially based on the depth of the relationship that bind the two peoples. The Husayn-'Arafat summit meeting provided an opportunity to affirm Jordan's interest in strengthening and bolstering Palestinian- Jordanian relations through the treatment of all dimensions and particularly economic dimensions so as to restore the relationship that exists between the two peoples' interests and which had weakened as a result of the conditions of occupation. Jordan, which has concluded a peace treaty with Israel, is anxious to see the desired end reached so that Palestinian objectives are attained, namely the regaining by the Palestinian people of their rights and the establishment of their state in their own land. His Majesty wanted to affirm that the Palestinian National Authority, the PLO, and 'Arafat enjoy the full support and backing of Jordan so as to enable them to achieve their objectives, since this will serve the interests of both peoples.

We are working hard to overcome the differences, sensitivities and obstacles that exist in our lives. We can see no justification for maintaining any reservations or sensitivities that would impede complete openness and the establishment of profound, balanced, and distinguished relations.

[Badarin] Let us talk now about your internal matters. The opposition says that your banning of the normalization conference recently constitutes a retraction from democracy. What were the logical government justifications for banning the conference after having allowed it?

[Al-Kabariti] The democracy that was being advocated by the conferees was a new type of democracy. The results of the dialogues, deliberations, and consultations which could take place during the conference were negated as a result of the issuance of the final statement on the work of the conference 24 hours prior to its convocation. This was the first reason.

The second reason was that this new democracy, of which we have heard for the first time, has monopolized the right to represent the people, since it claimed that the final statement represented the people's views. Furthermore, it saluted only the opposition members of parliament and thus destroyed the basis on which stand all democracies in the world which consider the deputies as the representatives of the people. It is natural to point out here that the majority of them, I mean the deputies, have endorsed the treaty.

Furthermore, those who advocate the logic that says that those who support the peace and the treaty have fallen into the trenches of Rabin and the Israeli leftist parties should accept by the same logic that those who oppose the treaty and the peace must have fallen into the trenches of Netanyahu, the Likud, and the Israeli right's parties.

In the same vein of logic, we say that if meetings are taking place between the supporters of peace on the Jordanian and Israeli sides, then there is a solitary contact and a strategic agreement between the opponents of peace on both the Jordanian and Israeli sides.

These are democratic facts which should not be ignored or overlooked. I wish to affirm that I personally support the opposition's right to express itself in all ways permitted by the constitution and the law but I also reserve the right to reject the contents of what the opposition is advocating.

[Badarin] Do you not feel that you are exaggerating when you talk about a draft final statement which represents about 2,500 people only?

[Al-Kabariti] I believe that the political speech which characterized the final statement of the conference that was not held represented the political speech of some dissenting Palestinian factions which advocate resorting to the military option which calls for struggle and the sacrifice of the last "Muslim brother" in Jordan.

[Badarin] So you consider the Jordanian-Israeli relationship to be the key to Arab-Israeli relations?

[Al-Kabariti] The relationship between Jordan and Israel is still in the stage of development and formation. It requires a great deal of care from both sides to eliminate obstacles and the prevention of the adoption of any stand or measures that could impede this relationship, because I believe in the final analysis that the development of the Jordanian-Israeli relationship and the establishment of peace between the two sides should constitute the cornerstone for the future of Arab-Israeli relations and the future of negotiations on all the current processes, and that any success or failure of this relationship will inevitably have a positive or negative effect on all these processes. Hence the importance of the Jordanian role due to its dynamism, centrality, and momentum which pushes toward the achieving of progress on the other peace tracks. Besides, the Jordanian role is consistent with Jordan's constant principles, to which we have referred and which stand for the need for peace to be comprehensive, just, and balanced.

[Badarin] Jordanian-Palestinian relations are still governed by stands and not by strategies despite the fact that all are riding in the peace train. Why is that?

[Al-Kabariti] There are numerous quarters, Arab and non-Arab, who have a vested interest in arousing sensitivities and feuds between the two sides and particularly on the official level between the Jordanian State and the Palestinian Authority. The reasons for this are well known; some are connected with the events of the peace process and some are connected with regional calculations. But we on our part must not permit those who fish in troubled waters to achieve their objectives which contradict the facts of history and geography that bind the two peoples.

[Badarin] Is it true that the Palestinian leadership asked Jordan to curb Hamas and that you have promised to do so?

[Al-Kabariti] As far as Jordan is concerned, Hamas is an Islamic resistance movement whose arena lies in the occupied territory. Its only connection with Jordan is an information bureau that had been permitted in accordance with international, Arab, and Jordanian laws.

[Badarin] Some Palestinian sources insist on saying that Jordan preserves "Hamas" as a useful pressure card for the present and the future. Is this true?

[Al-Kabariti] Certain statements were uttered by the Palestinian Authority, some by the official spokesman and others by some security officials, which contained references and allusions to Hamas' activities and its relationship with Jordan. I replied to these statements at the time. There is no Hamas activity in Jordan that conflicts with Jordanian laws and regulations. The

Jordanian Government will not permit the carrying out of any activity that contradicts the law and harms Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

[Badarin] Some quarters have claimed that King Husayn and 'Arafat have recently reached an agreement to form a joint administrative body to administer the affairs of the holy places in occupied Jerusalem. Is that true?

[Al-Kabariti] Not at all. The fact that his majesty the king affirms in a letter to Rabin that Arab Jerusalem must be the capital of Palestine, and Jordan's declared official position with regard to Jordan's role of taking care of the holy places until such time as the Authority becomes incapable of exercising this right, thus settling this issue, negate the existence of any possible differences between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides.

Recent events have confirmed the Jordanian call that Jerusalem should be the city of peace and the issue that rallies the Arabs together rather than dividing them. This has been the case. We would have hoped to see the Arab summit [on Jerusalem] convene because the conditions in which the Arab nation is living are no longer acceptable in the light of the challenges facing the Arab nation. It is time that we stopped being contented with the raising of slogans, without the establishment of an Arab-Arab dialogue for the realization of Arab integration on all levels: political, economic, human, and most importantly security

An Arab meeting at this stage is an urgent necessity. It is not enough to reject regional propositions without the holding of an Arab meeting to realize pan-Arab propositions even at the level of a unified political stand or an integrated level in which roles are divided.

[Badarin] Is there anything new in regard to the Arab summit conference?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordan believes that the reasons for the holding of the summit conference are still there. Our contacts with the "House of the Arabs," i.e. the Arab League, are still continuing too and are constant. With regard to the convocation of the summit conference now, the situation is no different from what it was when announced by King Hassan II. We hope that the bilateral contacts will increase hopes for giving inter-Arab coordination a push forward.

[Badarin] Are there any problems in relations between Jordan and Syria? Have you appointed an ambassador in Damascus?

[Al-Kabariti] Our relations with Syria are based on mutual respect based on our nationalist realization of the gravity of dangers surrounding the Arab nation. We hope that things will continue toward giving a push forward to coordination among all the Arab brothers. As to our ambassador to Damascus, he will be named in the list of appointments to be announced shortly.

[Badarin] Why has Jordan suddenly begun now to support the idea of entering into negotiations of the final stage? Why are you urging the Palestinians to do so as quickly as possible?

[Al-Kabariti] One of the most important reservations we registered against the Oslo Accord at the time it was announced was its deferment of the discussions of the question of Jerusalem until the final stage and the long interval left between the first and final stages on the pretext of building confidence between the two sides in the period between the two stages.

But out of our knowledge of the pressures the Palestinian side is suffering from as a result of the economic conditions which are translated on numerous occasion into political stands and our knowledge of the electoral pressures brought to bear on the Israeli Administration, we believed that the confidence-building operation would have only a limited chance of success, something that could threaten the entire peace process, particularly the Jerusalem issue. Hence our policy had been one of negotiations for reaching a complete treaty that would ensure balanced interests without consideration for the existing imbalance which is now in favor of the Israeli military forces. We in Jordan have succeeded in achieving a treaty that serves the interest of "the might of right" and not the interest of "the right of might." For this reason, we hope that the Jordanian call for entering the final stage of negotiations is a call based on a true and serious desire for reaching a comprehensive agreement (treaty) which would ensure the necessary just balance between the interests of both sides and ensure for the Palestinians their legitimate right to set up their own state on their own land with Arab Jerusalem its capital.

[Badarin] We have heard that you have embarked on steps for rapprochement with the Arabs of Israel. Is this true?

[Al-Kabariti] Jordan is interested in all Arab brothers. We believe that the Arabs in Israel have become a social and political force which it would be foolish to ignore. Hence my instructions to the staff of our embassy in Israel center always on opening channels of dialogue with them and getting closer to them in all fields.

[Badarin] Is there anything new in Jordan's relations with the Gulf countries?

[Al-Kabariti] We can say that now they are excellent. We are happy to see matters move positively in this regard. Our relations with the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia are improving and the level of contacts is increasing and is compatible with the role played by the Saudi sister state. Likewise, our relations are positive with the brothers in Qatar, Oman, the UAE, and Bahrain.

King Receives Jordanian, Palestinian Businessmen

JN0606202095 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 6 Jun 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king received at the Royal Court participants in the first conference of Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen currently convening in Amman.

The audience was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan. The king listened to a briefing on the conference's activities and committees. His majesty underlined during the meeting the importance of integration and coordination to improve the life patterns and achieve security and prosperity. He said the conference would provide real opportunities to achieve the quality change we aspire.

[Begin King Husayn recording, in Arabic] God willing, the coming phase will be one of work, efforts, sacrifice, and discussions on all possibilities, so we can have ready schemes and proposals in terms of direct cooperation between us, or ones which can be submitted to others who we hope will be in a position to help us change the people's lifestyle and position to what it should be and also to give them all opportunities, so they can progress and achieve prosperity and tranquility.

In so doing, we fear no party. We have confidence in ourselves, in our abilities, and in all fo you because you are builders. I do not know what to say about those who fear peace because neither my logic nor my mind can comprehend their arguments. After all that we have passed through, we are duty-bound to leave to the coming generations all opportunities. By so doing, there will be a real progress and our people can achieve their aspirations and prove themselves in the full sense of the word, God willing, as part of a situation in which rights will return to their owners, so peace will be comprehensive and complete in this region. [end recording]

Al-Hirawi on Upcoming Meeting With Syria, Israel

NC0506190095 Paris AFP in English
1846 GMT 5 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, June 5 (AFP) — Lebanon and Syria are to take part alongside Israel in a conference on EU-Mediterranean cooperation in November in Barcelona, President Ilyas al-Hirawi said Monday [5 June].

Al-Hirawi told AFP that he had raised the issue with his Syrian counterpart Hafiz al-Asad since April. They had "decided together to attend the conference," he said.

"Why lose our chance to fill our place in the Mediterranean basin? I believe we must take advantage of it because after France at the head of the European Union, Spain and then Italy will hold the rotating (EU) presidency," he said.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said last month that his country planned to attend the conference in Spain which he said was a purely European initiative and not connected with the Middle East multilateral talks.

Beirut and Damascus have been boycotting the multilaterals, insisting first on progress in direct peace talks with Israel.

The EU invited both Arab countries to take part in the Barcelona conference which will aim to launch a new political, economic and cultural partnership between Europe and the Mediterranean.

Lebanon coordinates its foreign policy with neighbouring Syria, a major power-broker in Beirut.

President al-Hirawi Leaves for 1-Day Paris Visit

NC0706062595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic
0430 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Ilyas al-Hirawi left for Paris this morning on board Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's private plane on a one-day official visit at the invitation of French President Jacques Chirac. [passage omitted]

President al-Hirawi is expected to return to Beirut this evening.

Al-Hariri's Government Wins Confidence Vote

NC0606183295 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1815 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's second government has won the confidence of the Chamber of Deputies with only 76 votes. Eighteen deputies denied it confidence and five abstained.

Paper: No Hizballah Minister in Cabinet at U.S. Request

NC0606182895 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic
31 May 95 p 20

["Last Stop" column by Sati' Nur-al-Din]

[FBIS Translated Text] How Hizballah left Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's second cabinet, after it was very close to having one of its members becoming a minister, might be one of the most important factors of the latest cabinet crisis. Departure from the cabinet, as has become known, was in response to an official urgent request by the United States, which still places Hizballah on the list of "international terrorism." The United States considered that Hizballah's participation in the cabinet would send a wrong signal abroad: that Lebanon rewards "terrorists" instead of punishing them.

Despite the fact that this stance was endorsed in keeping with the U.S. containment policy of Iran and "Iraq," the domestic considerations are somehow strange, particularly because the former government and the current government do not deserve all this attention from the United States, because it is a government for running certain work and projects, no more no less. Perhaps Washington has another assessment of this government that the Lebanese do not know. But undoubtedly this assessment would not have been affected by the existence a minister from Hizballah, who would take his place within the ruling establishment and reflect the views of a real trend in Lebanon and then vote against most of the stumbling projects. None in Lebanon has dreamed this would have happened in a Lebanese democracy that supposedly has room for all trends.

Of course it was not possible to reject such a dear U.S. request. But the most important question is: Why is the issue of appointing a Hizballah minister being brought up now?

Hizballah Statement Marks Israeli Occupation Anniversary

NC0706065795 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on the 13th anniversary marking the Zionist invasion of vast areas in Lebanon and its grotesque crimes against our innocent people. The statement reads in part:

Amid the attempts to impose humiliation, capitulation, and subservience, and amid the collapse of regimes and leaderships, the Islamic Resistance, which was launched 13 years ago, reiterates the following:

1. The U.S. arrogance is and will remain the enemy of our nation and all the world's oppressed people. The U.S. enemy seeks to plunder our wealth, subjugate us, change our identity, and impose injustice on us;

2. Despite all the agreements, the Zionist entity will remain an illegitimate entity founded on usurped land and its presence will always be rejected;

3. The resistance will always remain the option between death and humiliation;

4. There will be one battle, one enemy, and one nation; and

5. There will neither be peace nor normalization [tatbi'] with the Zionist enemy. It is the nation's duty to resist this enemy, rise up, and cling to its identity.

SLA Source Denies Blast Victim Security Official

NC0606140495 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A blast occurred at the entrance to the residence of citizen Lutfi Bazzi in Bint Jubayl at dawn today, killing him. The South Lebanese Army [SLA] personnel immediately closed off the approaches to the town and began a large-scale search campaign.

A responsible source in the SLA refuted the lies of the Voice of Light Radio, which belongs to Hizballah, which claimed that Bazzi is a security official in the SLA. The source said that Bazzi has absolutely nothing to do with the SLA or its security apparatus and that the Voice of Light, as usual, broadcasts lies.

Al-Asad Receives Dennis Ross; Clinton Remarks Noted

JN0606120195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hafiz al-Asad received Dennis Ross, U.S. coordinator of the Middle East peace process; Christopher Ross, U.S. ambassador in Damascus; and Mark Parris, special assistant to U.S. President Bill Clinton and director of Near East and South Asian Affairs at the U.S. National Security Council at the People's Palace at 1200 today.

Faruq al-Shar', minister of foreign affairs; Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian side to the peace talks; and Walid al-Mu'allim, Syrian ambassador in Washington, attended the meeting.

Mr. Ross arrived in Damascus this morning for talks with Syrian officials on the peace process.

In Washington, U.S. President Bill Clinton said he is confident that President Hafiz al-Asad wants peace. Interviewed by CNN, Clinton said: I believe there is an opportunity to make peace this year.

Radio Reports Gore Statements on Dialogue

JN0706065195 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington — U.S. Vice President Albert Gore, who took part in a dialogue with President Clinton on the peace process in a television program aired last night, said that dialogue with Syria has reached a point that makes us believe that the current moves give rise to much hope.

It was announced in Washington last night that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will begin his Middle East tour with a visit to Israel tomorrow, Thursday. U.S. State Department Spokeswoman Christine Shelly said that Christopher is likely to meet with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin in Cairo on Friday [9 June]. Shelly added that Dennis Ross, U.S. special Middle East coordinator, who is currently in Damascus, will leave for Egypt tomorrow.

Radio Views Peres Remarks, U.S. Official's Visit

JN0606150695 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1134 GMT 6 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has admitted that the Syrian track is the most important peace track. He said that he who wants to keep the Golan must relinquish peace. Israeli Environmental Protection Minister Yosi Sarid said that peace with Syria means peace with Lebanon and a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. These statements have coincided with the arrival of Dennis Ross, the U.S. coordinator of the peace process, in the region to hold preparatory talks prior to U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's tour which will begin on Thursday [8 June]. Observers wonder: Do these statements reflect a change in the Israeli stand following an agreement on a set of understanding in Washington on the broad lines of the proposed security arrangements between Syria and Israel?

The set of understanding was undoubtedly an important step on the road to peace. However, it needs an equitable [mutakafi'] implementation on the ground. In all cases, it is not a decisive step. This is because the decisive step is represented by Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 border and the return of the occupied Syrian territories to their people and owners. This means the return of the land, the dismantling of settlements, the departure of the settlers, and the displaced Syrian people's return to their homes, the restoration of their property, and the exercising of their normal life.

Syria has sincerely and responsibly responded to the peace efforts. From the very beginning, it stressed that peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East if it was not just and comprehensive so that it would lead to the settlement of all issues of the Arab- Israeli conflict and to the Israeli forces' withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories.

The successive developments since the signing of the Oslo agreement have proved the soundness of the Syria's viewpoint and its concept of an entrenched peace in the Middle East. Despite the fact that Israel has wasted much time and effort as a result of its procrastination and intransigence at the Washington talks, the opportunity is still available to give a push forward to the peace process and to save it from chaos and failure. This necessitates that Israel's intentions be sincere, that it should translate this into action on the ground, and respond fully to the requirements of peace and substantial facts; namely, full withdrawal to the 4 June borders and the recognition of the principle of equitability [takafu'] regarding any security arrangements. Here, we should note that Israel's withdrawal does not constitute a concession, for occupation is an aggression, and the UN Security Council resolutions do not permit aggression. The Israeli foreign minister himself has admitted that the Golan is a Syrian land and that no one, except Syria and the Golan people, has a right to the Golan. The faster Israel achieves a full withdrawal, reveals facts, and dissipates the illusions of the Israeli extremists, the faster the peace process advances. Time is ripe now to reveal facts, dissipate illusions, and openly declare that peace and occupation do not go together, that settlement conflicts with any peace endeavor, and that an honorable and stable peace cannot be achieved in the Middle East without relinquishing the policy of occupation and settlement, recognizing the Arabs' rights, withdrawing from all their territories, implementing the UN Security Council resolutions, and giving predominance to the power of international law. By this only, we can make true peace which guarantees security and stability for all sides.

Press Stresses Need for Israeli Pullback

JN0706081095 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 7 Jun 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "Peace by Deed," the newspaper TISHRIN addresses the talks held between His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and Dennis Ross, U.S. special Middle East coordinator, during which they discussed the means of promoting the peace process to make it achieve the goals set for it, saying: During Ross's stay in Israel, several Israeli officials made statements containing hints at a willingness to withdraw from the Golan. These officials underscored the importance of the Syrian track of negotiations, saying that it is the key to comprehensive peace in the region.

TISHRIN adds: Promoting the peace process requires an unmistakably clear and straightforward Israeli willingness to withdraw to the 4 June 1967 borders, as well as equitability [takafu'] in any security arrangements that could be agreed upon. Israel has wasted much time and effort. It has pursued a course grounded in procrastination, prevarication, and intransigence. A just and true peace could have been achieved a long time ago had it displayed a willingness to meet the requirements of peace.

TISHRIN concludes by saying: Israeli statements have contained many hints at withdrawal from the Golan. But this is not enough. It is extremely important for Israeli officials to be honest with their public. They should tell the Israeli public that it is impossible to achieve peace without complete withdrawal and recognition of Arab rights, that peace is much more important than territorial ambitions and settlement expansion, and that it is in Israel's interest to respect the relevant UN resolutions and covenants.

Under the headline "The Ball is in the Israeli Court," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says: The opportunity for achieving peace in the Middle East was made available when the Arabs endorsed the land-for- peace exchange. Nonetheless, Israel has thus far failed to demonstrate peaceful intentions, although it has made some moves in this regard as part of a public relations endeavor. These moves were aimed at telling the world that it is eager to achieve peace. Hence, the ball is still in the Israeli court. Israel is required to show some guts by acknowledging that those whose rights have been usurped must have them back, and that peace is dearer than any perceived gains or advantages, particularly since all parties are keen on achieving it.

AL-BA'TH asserts that there is no need for differing interpretations or maneuvers as long as the initiative upon which the Madrid conference was based constitutes a common denominator and first step toward the peace that will ensure the rights and aspirations of all.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: Syria can only reiterate its commitment to the peace process and international efforts. It will demonstrate patience over Israeli maneuvers. Now that expectations over the recent breakthrough in the peace process have ranged between cautious optimism and cold pessimism, we must emphasize again that Israel has no choice but to uphold international law in order to help achieve security and stability in the region. Territory is at the heart of the negotiations. So, if Israeli officials really seek peace, they have no choice but to endorse complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

Under the headline "True Progress," the newspaper AL-THAWRAH says: It is true that some of the statements made by Israeli officials have begun to show signs of rationality and moderation, thus giving rise to optimism over the possibility of making quick progress on the Syrian-Israeli track of negotiations, and consequently on the Lebanese-Israeli track of negotiations. Nonetheless, it is also true that other Israeli statements are not so reassuring. This could only block the efforts to make true progress in the peace talks.

AL-THAWRAH adds: Israeli officials have acknowledged that the Golan is Syrian territory. However, some Israeli statements have hinted at a partial withdrawal, whereas others spoke of a referendum on the Golan. Worse still, other statements contained conditions related to the so-called scope of withdrawal. This could only place further obstacles in the path of efforts to achieve real progress.

The paper stresses that no true progress can be made unless Israel abandons its ideas regarding partial withdrawals, and that complete withdrawal will remain a prerequisite of full peace.

Full Golan Withdrawal Said Key to 'Aspired Peace'

JN0206145595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1145 GMT 2 Jun 95

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: In his news conference with President Mubarak yesterday, President Hafiz al-Asad said the understanding reached with Israel is no more than an understanding on the broadlines of security arrangements. He said thus far, no agreement has been reached on the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan, and stated that Syria strongly insists on Israel's withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

In fact, Israel's full withdrawal from the Golan is the key to the aspired peace. Without this withdrawal, it is impossible to achieve peace. The understanding on the principles of security arrangements is an important step, but it is not a decisive one. The decisive step is Israel's open commitment to full withdrawal, and the adoption of measures toward ending the occupation and returning those who were displaced from the Golan.

The full withdrawal is the test of Israel's peace credibility. Through expediting the implementation of Security Council Resolution 242, which does not allow the occupation of others' land by force and asks Israel to withdraw its forces to the previous lines, the peace process will advance and confidence will be strengthened. It is obvious that confidence of Arabs in general, and Syria and Lebanon in particular, in Israel's peace intentions is almost nonexistent. The region has only witnessed aggressions and expansionist actions by Israel. Any Israeli procrastination concerning full withdrawal and returning the whole of the Golan will only strengthen doubts concerning Tel Aviv's peace credibility.

We say this because the Middle East will witness intensive activities within the next few days. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher is expected to arrive and begin a new round of shuttle talks in Syria and Israel. The understanding on the general security framework is a step forward, but Israel's commitment to return to the 4 June 1967 borderlines would open the way for real and decisive progress. The Israeli rulers have a unique opportunity to make this progress.

Through its full withdrawal from the Golan, Israel would not be surrendering anything but would be returning the land and right to their owners. By this, it will be in line with the international community which rejects occupation, settlement, annexation of territories, and violation of the Geneva Conventions. In return for this, Israel will obtain peace. Peace means security and stability.

Syria is always known to honor its commitments. Syria fights honorably when war is imposed on it, and makes peace honorably when peace is just. Israel's rulers have admitted more than once that Syria has one word, and it has never gone back on its word. Hence, rendering Christopher's next tour successful, and advancing the peace process depend on Israel's rulers and their sincere response to the peace facts, terms, and bases.

Afghanistan

Government Officials Meet U.S. Envoy to Pakistan

Hekmatyar Views Political Situation

LD0206164195 (Clandestine) Radio Message of Freedom in Pashto to Afghanistan 0730 GMT 2 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a report by a Radio Message of Freedom correspondent, John Cameron Monjo, U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, yesterday met in Jalalabad city Brother Hekmatyar, amir of the Hezb-e Eslami-ye Afghanistan [Islamic Party of Afghanistan].

The meeting, at which the political situation of Afghanistan was discussed, was also attended by Richard H. Smyth, U.S. consul in Peshawar, and Tom Williams, diplomat in charge of Afghanistan's affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad. Brothers Mangal Hosayn, representative of the Hezb-e Eslami in Islamabad, and Lieutenant General Fazl Haq Mojahed, commander of Army Corps No 1 of Nangarhar, were also present at this meeting from the Hezb-e Eslami side.

Brother Hekmatyar attended also a news conference held yesterday afternoon. At this news conference Brother Hekmatyar answered journalists' questions on the political-military situation of Afghanistan and about subjects discussed with the U.S. ambassador.

Rabbani Discusses UN Efforts

LD0606175095 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Afghan presidency press office reported that President Borhanoddin Rabbani received this afternoon, John Monjo, U.S. ambassador to Pakistan, in Golkhanan palace. During the meeting they exchanged views about the expansion and consolidation of friendly relations and links between the two countries and the resumption of UN efforts to find a solution to the Afghan problem.

Najibollah Lafra'i, state minister for foreign affairs, this morning met with John Monjo and the accompanying delegation. A BAKHTAR correspondent reports: Explaining the country's political and military situation, Dr. Lafra'i emphasized during the meeting the UN solution of the Afghan problem. The U.S. ambassador stated his country's readiness for a UN solution to the problems of Afghanistan and expressed interest in stability in the region and country. According to another report, Mr. John Monjo and the accompanying delegation met with esteemed Mohammad Yunus Qanuni, head of the army's political affairs, in the Defense Ministry. During the meeting, which was attended by Lieutenant General Mohammad Naim Wardak, head of the reconnaissance department and acting chief of general staff, the two sides held talks about the expansion of friendly relations between Afghanistan and the United States. Similarly, Mr. John Monjo and the accompanying delegation met this morning with esteemed Fahim, head of national security, in the headquarters of the department. During the meeting esteemed Fahim briefed the ambassador about recent events and the improvement of security in Kabul city. In response Mr. John Monjo promised all possible cooperation for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Mr. John Monjo and Mr. (Kenneth Kelly), UN representative of the international police, arrived in Kabul this morning at the head of a delegation. They were received at Kabul airport by a number of senior state officials, head of protocol, and Foreign Ministry officials.

Taleban, Government Said Preparing for 'Encounter'

LD0606161395 Tehran IRNA in English 1513 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Birjand (Khorasan Prov.), June 6, IRNA — The Talebans and Afghan Government forces by reinforcing and strenghtening their positions in Delaram and Helmand areas are preparing for an encounter in the west of Afghanistan, informed sources said.

Ahmad Shah Masud has dispatched a number of his forces to western regions and many others have rushed to the area from Pakistan to help the Talebans, the sources said.

Deputy governor of Nimruz Province, Isma'il Khan in a speech called for the cooperation of the people of the province with government forces.

During the past two months, government forces captured Farah and Nimruz Provinces from the Talebans and pushed them back to Helmand Province in the south of Afghanistan.

India

Daily Views Outcome of Mukherjee's U.S. Visit

BK0606151995 Calcutta ANANDABAZAR PATRIKA in Bengali 27 May 95 p 4

[Editorial: "Standstill in India-U.S. Relations"]

[FBIS Translated Text] India's external affairs minister, Pranab Mukherjee, unexpectedly came face to face with President Bill Clinton at the White House on the very first day of his three-day visit to the United States. The President inquired about his welfare and recalled the visit made by Hillary Clinton to India two months ago. If this incident had taken place in Beijing, then Pranab Mukherjee would have had to immediately consult international experts on China to ascertain its diplomatic significance, but Washington is not Beijing. Bill Clinton is neither Mao Zedong nor Deng Xiaoping. If we look into the documents to ascertain the diplomatic success of this visit made by the external affairs minister of India to the United States after a long interval, we would see that the calculations are neither complex nor difficult. As was expected, Mr. Mukherjee, while addressing a news conference at the end of his visit, emphasized the Kashmir issue. Presently, Kashmir is not only the foremost and major problem of the Home Ministry, it is also the prime issue for the External Affairs Ministry. The importance of the United States in this issue has increased following the recent U.S. visit of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan. Concern has been expressed about whether Washington wants to become inclined toward Islamabad on the Kashmir issue. In the U.S. Congress, resentment is being expressed against the Indian Government regarding the allegations of human rights violations in Kashmir. At the same time, pressure is being mounted on U.S. policymakers to lift the ban on arms supply and other assistance imposed against Pakistan. This pressure has already started to yield results. Efforts are under way for resumption of various kinds of assistance to Pakistan. Pressler has also softened his stand on the F-16 issue. The remarks made by U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Robin Raphel on the Kashmir issue a few days ago are certainly a cause of concern for the External Affairs Ministry of Pranab Mukherjee. Hence, one of the main objectives of his visit to the United States was to make the U.S. Administration say in clear terms that Kashmir is a bilateral problem of India and Pakistan. These two countries should resolve this problem, and no third country will be allowed to interfere in the matter. In fact, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has stated that the best way to resolve the Kashmir problem is through bilateral dialogue. Has Christopher stated exactly what India wanted? In diplomacy, every word and every gesture is of immense significance. Following this statement by Christopher, the External Affairs Ministry of India has become carefree. The cost of maintaining the status quo remains the same. It is noteworthy that the U.S. ambassador to India has for the time being postponed his visit to Kashmir. This has been done in the interest of the status quo.

The cost of the status quo is also not too much. The truth is that the relationship between India and the United States has not moved forward as a result of this visit by Pranab Mukherjee. It has remained where it was. The difference of opinion between the two countries on the issue of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] continues to remain the same. The two sides have once again reiterated their respective stands. There is no sign of any new progress made on the issue of economic cooperation. Economic issues were not given priority during this visit by the external affairs minister. It is astonishing that this issue was not given priority, especially when Pranab Mukherjee has been given the post of external affairs minister with a view to giving importance to economic issues in foreign policy. On the other hand, the purpose of the visit of U.S. Commerce Secretary Ron Brown to India was to expand cooperation in the fields of trade and industry. Economic issues were the main agenda of talks during Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's visit to the United States. In contrast to Rao's visit, economic issues lacked luster during the visit of the external affairs minister.

In fact, this visit has a symbolic significance. India has failed to display the extra enthusiasm needed to improve relations with the United States. This is unfortunate. If India wants to achieve a new place and dignity in the international economy and politics, it should bring about large-scale and significant reforms in its foreign policy. These reforms should be closely related to the reforms in the economic and trade policies. The Indian economy has already eliminated the hollow and outdated ideology and incorporated itself with reality. In comparison to the economy, very few reforms have been made in the foreign policy, and there are many hesitations in this regard. It may not be possible for India to accept the demand of the United States regarding the NPT, as its demand may be unethical, but India has not displayed its judiciousness by raising an unnecessary hue and cry over this difference of opinion. Diplomacy is the art of the possible. This art is more important in diplomacy than in politics. India should be more proficient in this art. If this is not done, India will not be able to gain a respectable and advantageous position in the new world and new politics.

Daily Interviews Chief Election Commissioner

BK2905094995 Delhi INDIA TODAY in English 31 May 95 pp 50-55

["Excerpts" of interview with Chief Election Commissioner T.N. Seshan by Executive Editor Inderjit Badhwar and Senior Correspondent Charu Lata Joshi on 6 May; place not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]**Q. Regarding the recent postponement of the Lok Sabha by-elections, did you change your mind? After all, the state governments were giving the same reasons earlier to postpone the elections.**

A. The life of the present Lok Sabha is till July 7 or 8, 1996, that is because the life of any legislature, according to the law, is for five years after the first meeting of the Lok Sabha after the general elections. When I considered the question of by-elections, the balance of time available was about 14-15 months. Now the convention has been that by-elections are held when the balance of life of the House left is not less than one year. So from that logic, I should hold the House elections. Then, first the Congress party wrote and said that there is less than one year left (on the assumption that the general elections were going to be pre-poned). I wrote back and said, you're not right, 14-15 months are left. BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] (on the same assumption) told me the same thing. CPI (M) [Communist Party of India-Marxist] said so. George Fernandes' party said so. To all of them, my answer was that there was more than one year left and you could find me at fault, saying that there is more than one year left, why don't you hold the by-elections?

Q. So why didn't you stick to your guns?

A. Once the Government officially wrote a letter on May 4, saying that they want the general elections before April next year, less than 12 months are left. So I said fine. I have been utterly consistent, whether the BJP likes it, the ADMK [Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam] likes it, or the DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam — Dravidian Progressive Foundation] likes it.

Q. But you agreed to that.

A. I wasn't disinclined to the possibility of holding the general elections in February next year because January is the month of harvest, March and April are my children's exams and May is brutally hot and June is monsoon.

Q. It's been alleged that this was a pro-Congress move.

A. All the newspapers have reports which say, 'Ire of opposition parties on pro-Congress Seshan'. Pro-Congress, my bloody left foot!

Q. What are your views on holding the elections in Kashmir?

A. I have no views yet. I am waiting for information. The Constitutional position is that while any number of people may send me recommendations, but it is for me to send the notification to the Governor. The Governor shall, on the date specified, issue a notification for holding of the elections. If I don't specify, the Governor cannot notify.

Q. Are you going to make an assessment on the situation in Kashmir?

A. I've asked the Government for intelligence reports, I've asked even for military intelligence reports. I've asked for all kinds of reports.

Q. Have you heard from them?

A. No. It's too early I suspect. I sent the letter on 2nd evening. It's reasonable to recalculate the entire arrangement. The present extension of President's Rule ends on July 18. So you would like to have an Assembly before that, because otherwise you will have to go and amend the Constitution.

Q. How do you propose to inspire confidence among voters in a terrorist-ridden state?

A. Weren't there terrorists in Punjab when we held elections there in 1992? Didn't we hold elections then?

Q. But they were scheduled in 1991, and were finally held in 1992.

A. So? If I am satisfied that the conditions are okay, I will hold them as I held them in Punjab in 1992.

Q. Will you ask for army deployment for the J&K [Jammu and Kashmir] elections?

A. No. I will not use the army for the elections so long as I am in charge.

Q. You have recently given an assurance that you will make it possible for Kashmiri migrants to vote, even if it means making them vote in camps outside the state.

A. Yes, we will make it possible for them to vote. Migrants from Kashmir, who are living in camps in Jammu or Delhi or elsewhere, or whose normal place of residence is somewhere in J&K, will be able to vote. Where and how will they vote? I didn't say anything. But vote, they will.

Q. Are you going to make absolutely sure that Kashmiri migrants vote?

A. I made that statement one year ago.

Q. Whether they cast absentee ballots?

A. Ask no questions and you'll be told no untruths at the moment.

Q. How?

A. That is trumps. And trumps are revealed when a hand has to be roughed.

Q. You have started the Deshbhakta Trust...

A. Is this a thinly fig-leafed case of political opportunism you will ask. That is rubbish. That is unadulterated rubbish when The Telegraph writes so. Somebody has given me money, I don't want to mix one rupee out of it with my private earnings. So in order to park the Rs [rupees] 5 lakh somewhere, which I got as award money, I started the trust. When I start a trust, I have no intention of starting a trust, saying that in order to do charitable work, I have started the trust. I drafted it and it covers anything and everything you can think of. It's the most amazingly comprehensive thing that anybody could think of. Does that make me politically oriented? If you mean political ambitions in the sense of becoming MLA [member of legislative assembly]/MP, the answer is no.

Q. The Seshan we have seen in the past two years has spoken his mind publicly because of the position he's in. He has the status of a Supreme Court chief justice. Suppose you did not have this position, wouldn't you have been a very frustrated man?

A. No, no. I could pick half a sentence from the Bhagvad Gita and ruminate on it till the Kingdom comes. Of the 700 stanzas in the Bhagvad Gita, I could pick up one and ruminate on it for the rest of my living life time.

Q. But you yourself said that as a civil servant, your mouth was sealed and your hands were tied and you couldn't do much. The fact is that you have come out openly now because your position is safeguarded and nobody can touch you.

A. Your question is 'would I have done the same thing if I did not have the platform?' These are all questions in the realm of conjecture for which I do not know the answer, you don't know the answer. I don't know. If I did not have the platform, would I have done the same thing? I honestly don't know.

Q. What about Rajiv? You have been called his chamcha [hanger-on]?

A. I was protective, yes. But because I was paid to protect him. In terms of his physical protection, it was a kartavya [duty]. It was a duty. In terms of files, what I wrote for Mr Rajiv Gandhi, I will not tell you so long as I am in public life.

Q. But there must have been issues on which you disagreed?

A. Sure. There were very, very critical issues on which we disagreed and I put my disagreements on paper. Sometimes I won, sometimes I got overruled.

Q. Have your feelings changed in the present context of things?

A. No. But would I have come out? Would I have spoken out? Would I have addressed 300 meetings in 18 months? I don't know. Of course, the Government helped me a great deal by repeated hostility (see box). The Government, I must be eternally grateful to.

Q. You say, within a month of taking over, you were ready to quit. Why didn't you?

A. I said, no unpleasantness. I told Mr Rao, please allow me to leave. You look after this job. I told him you have G.V.G. Krishnamurthy and M.S. Gill. They can take charge. I don't want the job.

Q. What did he say?

A. He said, 'No, no, how can we let you go?'

Q. But at the same time you find him hostile?

A. Yes, Prime Minister Narasimha Rao is hostile.

Q. But isn't that a dichotomy?

A. I could have laughed myself to scorn to find in the decrepit man so firm a mind. They want what you might call a domesticated animal. He would like me to be there, but he would like me to listen to what he wants me to do.

Q. Don't you feel like hitting back?

A. Why should I kick a worm? My reaction to many of these people is that they are worms. Isi liye kisi ko batata nahin hun (that's why I don't unburden myself).

Q. Do you mean to say actual obstacles were placed to hamper your functioning?

A. Why do you think two gentlemen (the other commissioners) were sent of which one gentleman stood in my room and said, 'You're stupid. You're nonsense.'

Q. Who was that?

A. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy, at our very first meeting, came into my room and called me these words and said, 'I will teach you a lesson.' He was chosen and sent to assist me because of superior legal erudition. A man who comes up to my office table, drags up his right foot trouser and says, 'Hah! This is where my leg was cut for me to undergo bypass surgery.' Puts his booted leg on my office table. I put this down in my affidavit to the Supreme Court. They send me two gentlemen to assist me in my work, when I had said, as early as 1992, that I don't have 10 minutes of work a day. And today, would you tell me that elections in this country, or references from the state government on the election matters, are kept pending because I am sitting unassisted by these gentlemen? Have you heard of any one of the 25 state governments saying that we have written letter after letter to the commission and that no reply is forthcoming? No, mine is the most efficient office in this country.

Q. In Uttar Pradesh, we have seen the way delimitation took place in the panchayat [local body] elections in which caste became a major factor. Do you think that was right?

A. Panchayat elections are none of my business. Because you and your Parliament and your Congress Government went and passed a law in which they took away the entire supervision, control and guidance of local body elections away from the Election Commission.

Q. And did they see what was the result?

A. To mujhko kyon bata rahe ho? (Why are you telling me?) Please ask the following gentlemen in this order: P.V. Narasimha Rao, K. Vijayabhaskara Reddy, Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, P. Chidambaram and ask Mani Shankar Aiyer, and assorted other members of the committee which finalised this and gave the responsibility to the state election commission. Day and night, I am besieged with calls. Some IGP [inspector general of police] from Kanpur rings up and says, 'Mr Seshan, I thought you were a great chief election commissioner [CEC].' I tell him, 'You're mistaken, you should not have thought so. What is the reason for this nice conversation?' He tells me that in the Kanpur municipal elections, such and such happened. I tell him, 'mujhe koi taluqat nahin hai (it's none of my business). Don't talk to me.' So, I will tell you, 30 days earlier, I ran an election in Maharashtra, in which not a fly was hurt. Thirty days later, they ran the panchayat elections, they opened fire and killed people. I'm saying that the Government ne jaan boojhke bharat ke chunavayukt ke haath se local body elections ko bahar rakha hai (the Government purposely kept local body elections outside the purview of the election commissioner).

Q. There are two views about you, a hard exterior with a soft heart, or a hard exterior with a hard heart. Which do you subscribe to?

A. A hard exterior with a soft head.

Q. A soft head which makes hard decisions?

A. It's up to you to decide that.

Q. People call you a democrat, megalomaniac, overweeningly ambitious, a man with fascist tendencies, press hater? How do you react to these epithets?

A. The only thing on which I have a positive reaction is the last one. It's totally untrue. The rest of it, pasand apni apni (take your pick).

Q. But when people describe you as a megalomaniac and if this is not in keeping with your internal reality, is there some part of you which reacts humanly or in a hurt fashion?

A. Not at all. I don't hurt. I just don't hurt. There is no real anger in what I say. It is a sadness.

Q. Are you a tyagi [ascetic]?

A. My life is full of Vedanta [theological treatise]. No, I am not a tyagi, I am an attempted gyani [sage]. An effort, a constant seeking, striving to know.

Q. How does this gel with the fact that you do have ambitions? You are concerned about image and publicity.

A. Yes, I do have ambitions. But contrary to what you may think, I am not in the least bothered about publicity. You can say for the next 18-19 months I'm going to be in this job, you will swear that you will not publish a single photograph of mine, I shall not lose 30 seconds worth of sleep.

Q. So there's no question of any carefully cultivated image?

A. None, whatsoever. I come exactly as I come.

Q. Do you have a favourite politician?

A. No. I have no favourite nothing. The ones I admire are unfortunately not living. I admire Sardar Patel for sheer strength of will power, I admire Rajaji for intellectual acumen. But they're not present. Right now, I can't see anybody. I don't see anybody in sight.

Q. Including our prime minister?

A. Don't try and ask clever questions. No answer to this question.

Q. Will you join any political party?

A. No way. But I grieve, every waking moment. If I can find a way by which I can be of one iota of help to one grieving soul, I am willing to sell my entire patrimony and do this.

Q. But is that a solution?

A. I tell you as on 5:45, on the 6th of May, 1995, (as we sit here) I don't see the answers. Do we find it in the Congress party? Do you find it in the BJP? Do you find it in the CPI? Do you find it in the CPI (M)? Do you find it in the Janata Dal? Do you find it in the Janata Party? Those are the six recognised national parties with me. Do you find it in the following 38 state recognised parties, DMK, ADMK, Assam Gana Parishad, Revolutionary Socialist Party? Akali Dal? I am sorry, I don't find it. What are you going to do? I don't know.

Q. Do you think this form of government, in terms of executive accountability to the legislature, is working?

A. I have said it is not working. Why are you bothered about me? I am a piffling mortal. One out of 920 million people. Leave me out of the counting. Why do you come back to me and say, what did you do when you were a cabinet secretary? What does it matter?

Q. Because of your position the public has the right to know.

A. I only say, my answer is, if you say, I was a coward, right, Seshan was a coward. What did Deshmukh (former cabinet secretary) say about me? Seshan was obsequious to superiors and a bully to subordinates. Right. I can tell you a thing or two about Deshmukh. But I am not made of that stuff. I will not open my mouth. Subramanian Swamy says all kinds of things, what do you say? Swamy says you took Rs 1 crore from Jayalalitha, Swamy is an honourable man. Swamy says, you took Rs 12 lakh from the RSS [Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh], Swamy is an honourable man; Swamy says you took a Rs 6 lakh ring from Chandraswamy, Swamy is an honourable man. This is going to set your reputation with the public several notches down. But Swamy is an honourable man. Find out whether what I say is right. Don't bother whether I am right or wrong. It's irrelevant. Rather than trying to say that Seshan is doing this because he wants publicity, Seshan is doing this because he's obsequious, Seshan is doing this because he's arrogant.

Q. At Gurgaon, on January 29, 1994, during the course of a press conference, you apparently declared that 'All of us are Hindus. I believe that anybody who calls himself an Indian is a Hindu.' You also regretted that 'we have lost sight of this very fundamental principle of our lives.' This is a thesis which is rejected by all secular parties. How do you justify this?

A. Massive and stupid misquoting. I can't remember exactly what I said, but I definitely did not say this. But I said that some of the values all of us hold are Indian. Whether you call yourself a Muslim, Christian, Sikh, Jain, whatever. Some of the values all of us hold are Indian, not Hindu values.

Q. How do you react when Lalu Prasad Yadav says that he, a person of the Backward Castes, was manipulated by two Brahmins: you and Mr Narasimha Rao?

A. Mr Lalu Yadav is a great patriot.

Q. Isn't patriotism also the last refuge of scoundrels?

A. Those are the white man's ideas of patriotism.

Q. And a brown man's?

A. Brown man's idea of patriotism is deshbhakti [Hindi for patriotism].

Q. Does it also involve attacking Seshan?

A. If attacking Seshan is a necessary concommitant of deshbhakti, he should be attacked, not spared. Nobody should be considered holy.

Q. With the Supreme Court case regarding the position of the CEC still hanging on your head, and with the judgement still pending, how do you see your position?

A. Nothing. It's status quo ante.

Q. If it is an adverse judgement?

A. Arre [well], we will cross every river when we reach the bridge. You should never try and cross the river before you reach the bridge.

Q. But do you think an adverse judgement might actually pave the way for your entry into politics?

A. Everything that happens has been helpful to me.

Q. Your lawyer in the course of the Supreme Court proceedings made a plea that, 'This man is doing a great job. Please don't disturb the arrangement. Kindly announce your judgement after he retires in 1996.' Thereby admitting to the court that you were expecting an adverse judgement.

A. No, one of the lawyers, Mr Nani Palkhivala, made the statement.

Q. Don't you think this weakened your case?

A. I am sorry, a lawyer is a lawyer is a lawyer. I can't go and hold him by the coat-tail and every time he says something, pull at the coat and say, 'no, no, this is not what I want to do.' I don't agree or disagree with anything. That was the statement he made in court, that I agree.

Q. Recently you named four political parties, including the CPI, who had asked you to join them. Can you identify these parties?

A. It's so obvious. The Congress, the BJP, the Janata Dal and the CPI (M).

Q. You haven't considered joining any of them?

A. Why should I?

Q. Do you see yourself as the prime minister?

A. I see myself as T.N. Seshan. Undiluted, unalloyed, uncontaminated T.N. Seshan. Like Robespierre's sea green incorruptible, that's what I see myself as. You can't touch me.

Q. Do you see any political leader or politician who has the potential or sincerity to bring about reforms?

A. I would like to suspend judgement by saying that my study is still incomplete. But have I come across anybody? The answer is no. To the extent to which I have studied things, the answer is no. But let me qualify it by saying that I haven't completed my study.

Q. Seshan the voter. Would he vote for any of these people?

A. That is why I have never voted. In all my life. I have never voted. I have grieved and said 'Lord! Why don't you give me somebody to vote for?' I don't fail to go to the polling booth, I stand in the queue. [begin box] *The CEC details the outbreak of hostilities between him and the Government.*

On several matters, the Government deliberately disagreed with me. In December, 1991, I went to the prime minister and told him, 'Sir, you have passed a legislation which says that I am equated to a Supreme Court judge. Please change the warrant of precedence.' He said, 'Yes, yes.' But didn't do it for three years.

And then, when I asked for staff (for electoral duties), they said you don't have the authority. Until 1988, when an officer is doing election work, the law said he is subject to superintendence, control and direction of the Election Commission. In 1988 December, the words 'discipline of the Election Commission' were added.

And now when I started punishing people for not attending to work, they said you don't have punishing powers.

After six or seven months of discussion, (Cabinet Secretary) Rajagopal said you don't have the powers. I went to the prime minister on May 7, 1993, and said, 'This can't work. You please consult a panel of lawyers.' He said, 'Okay. Okay. I think what you say is correct, but I need a month's time to look into this.' I went away on a month's leave on May 23, but before I went, I asked him to nominate somebody to look into this. He nominated nobody. From May 23 to June 13, I was away on leave in Madras. During that period, the prime minister called me in Madras at least 15 times, but he never spoke of my problem. I returned on June 13. On June 14, the prime minister called me and said, 'Seshan, between you and Jyoti Basu, my Commerce Minister (Pranab Mukherjee) is losing his job (on the Rajya Sabha non-residency issue).' I said, I can't help it.'

I said, 'Sir, you promised to give me an order in a month, but nearly six weeks are over.' That was June 14. The prime minister went away to Muscat. He came back on the 16th. The Harshad Mehta suitcase exploded on his face [reference to stockbroker accused of manipulating market]. I kept quiet, because he was in various other distractions. On July 2, I was going to England, before going, I spoke to (Principal Secretary) A.N. Verma and said, 'This issue is outstanding. The prime minister hasn't yet given his orders, please remind him.' I came back on July 10. On 10th, Mr Verma called and told me, 'We have found a salubrious answer.' I said, 'Please give me the order.' No salubrious order came on the 10th, the 11th, the 12th.

I waited. On the 16th, I wrote a letter to the prime minister, saying that things are getting out of hand. Please give me an order, otherwise I will go to court. I held back the letter on July 17 and 18. Thereon the prime minister called me and said, 'There seems to be logic in what you say.' I said, 'Give me the order.' He said, 'No, we have to draft the order, to save the officers' faces'. I said, 'If drafting is a problem, I'll draft it for you.' He said, 'I will call you tomorrow.' That tomorrow never came.

On July 27 or 28, 10 MPs' from Tamil Nadu and the MLA, leader of the Opposition Congress party in Tamil Nadu Assembly, said that Jayalalitha was not permitting the Congress party leaders or workers to go into the constituency, Ranipet, where by-elections were due, and would I kindly send the Central forces in advance. It was countersigned by Subramanian Swamy also. So I sent it to the Government and said, please send the Central police forces in advance. On August 1, I got a letter from the Government, saying that you have no authority to ask for Central forces. On August 2, I scrubbed all the elections. On the 3rd, there was a meeting in Parliament where Rao made a statement and the Speaker called a meeting. On August 4, the Attorney General was called in to give evidence to the House. On the 5th, the Government said that they were in agreement with the Attorney General's opinion and were going to move the Supreme Court. I waited for them to move the Supreme Court on 6th. They did not. On August 9, the prime minister said in Parliament that constitutional authorities must stick within their limits, addressed to me.

On 10th morning, I went to the Supreme Court. Right then, all kinds of mediators came to me, saying that the prime minister wants you to find an answer. I said, I have the following answers; I am willing to quit. Elegantly. No noise. No controversies, otherwise yield my point: that I am entitled to staff, I am entitled to disciplining them.

Nothing came forward. At 2.30, the Chief Justice took up the hearing, at 4.45, I got the decision, saying that my position is correct, at least in the interim order. I rang up the prime minister and said that I am sorry, if I've caused you any hurt, but this is the position. I am restoring the elections to September, which I postponed to December. I restored the elections to September. I held them. And since then, the matter is sub judice in the Supreme Court. It hasn't been heard since August 1993. I am working only on the interim order.

Then day after day, after day, between August and September, Mr Gadgil, as spokesman of the Congress party, said that all the others are asking for a multi-member commission, but we don't want a multi-member commission. On October 1, they waited for me to leave town, and landed two gentlemen in my office. They passed an ordinance, saying that all decisions will be taken by majority and landed those two donkeys in my office. The donkeys came and spoke to me viciously. So, do you understand the build-up of hostility? [end box]

BJP Rules Out Alliance With BSP in Elections

BK0606112895 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has ruled out the possibility of his party forming any alliance with the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] for the coming Lok Sabha elections.

He told our Allahabad correspondent that his party decided to support the BSP government in Uttar Pradesh in order to remove the casteist and anti-downtrodden community government of the Samajwadi Party from power. He asserted that while doing so the BJP has no affected any change in its policies and programs.

Iran

Velayati: Resources Can Foil U.S. Sanctions

LD0606211295 Tehran IRNA in English 2100 GMT GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 6, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has told IRNA that Iran cannot be brought under pressure by the U.S. trade sanctions and that Iran has got the alternatives and enough resources to foil the U.S. trade sanction.

Velayati added that the U.S. trade sanction against Iran was not a new measure and since the beginning of the Islamic revolution the U.S. Government has been engaged in bringing pressure on, and creating troubles for, the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Despite all the attempts made by the United States, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been able to leave behind all the obstacles powerfully and today Iran as an independent and powerful state is showing its constructive presence at the regional as well as international scenes, Velayati underlined.

Some two months ago the U.S. President Bill Clinton taking part in a Zionist gathering talked of his decision about the renewal of the U.S. 1979 trade sanction against Iran and called upon the U.S. allies to join the trade sanction against Iran.

Only Israel has welcomed Clinton's sanction and except for the Zionist regime all the countries have rejected the sanction.

The world economic powers such as the European Union (EU), China, India, Russia, Japan and Canada have informed that they will not join the U.S. sanction against Iran.

The U.S. President has accused Iran of supporting the terrorism as well as making attempts to gain nuclear weapons. Tehran has asked Washington to show evidence in order to prove its claims.

President Rafsanjani has said that during the first five-year Iranian economic development plan, Iran could develop its infrastructure so that no trade sanction such as the lonely U.S. sanction would be able to affect the Iranian development process.

Velayati added that today the economic relations in the world was based upon competition and the United States with practising the renewal of the trade sanction will create problems for the U.S. trade companies instead of Iran.

TV Claims U.S. 'Isolated' by Sanctions

LD0606112495 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0954 GMT 6 Jun 95

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In a country dependent on a foreign power, the nation's talent, its immense manpower and natural resources will be utilized to serve interests of the aliens. In such a country the patriotic figures are either isolated or annihilated and its international policies are designed to suit desires of the hegemonists.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed leader of the Islamic revolution, at a ceremony marking the anniversary of the historic 15th Khordad uprising, while stating the above, said that affiliation to foreign powers was the main reason for remaining backward. [passage omitted]

In accordance with the instructions and uncomprising stances of the esteemed leader, the noble Iranian nation formally begins to confront the U.S. embargo against Iran as of today. On the basis of an order issued by the U.S. President a month ago, from today it is illegal for U.S. firms to trade with Iran or to invest in this country.

Earlier in the year 1359 [1980], when the United States was disgraced following its attack on Tabas, the U.S. Government imposed economic sanctions against Iran which took effect from the first of Khordad [22 May] in that year. The law was extended 10 years later during George Bush's presidency. One can, therefore, claim that there have been no bilateral economic links between Iran and the United States since the early days of the revolution. For the past 16 years, none of Iran's non-oil exports, be it carpets, pistachios, or industrial products, have been given the chance of appearing on the U.S. market. In fact what is being banned is any transaction between the U.S. registered firms and Iran. Such firms are classed as U.S. companies.

The said firms could not deny Iran's importance at the international energy market. Being aware of Iran's potential to supply the world gas requirements, these companies used to purchase Iranian oil for sale on the international market outside the United States.

The point is that the sanctions have isolated the United States. During the first embargo against Iran in the year 1359, the European Union supported the United States. Whereas this time none of the U.S. allies agreed to cooperate. At the same time, Iran has come through the difficulties of the early revolution period, including the imposed war; and as the Islamic President [Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani] of Iran said: Thanks to Iran's position today, such sanctions cannot seriously harm it.

Envoy: U.S. 'Hostility' Stems From Fear of Islam

LD0606213295 Tehran IRNA in English
2110 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ankara, June 6, IRNA — Iranian Ambassador to Turkey Mohammad Reza Baqeri called the main reason behind the hostility of the arrogant world particularly the United States against the Iranian Islamic revolution as the Zionist and the Western fear of Islam as a model of a perfect state for the Muslim countries.

In an interview here Monday [5 June] night with the Turkish private TV Channel-7 Baqeri described the process of the Islamic revolution from 15 Khordad (June 5) to the victory of the revolution as well as the domestic and foreign policies of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Counting the achievements of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the political and economic areas, Baqeri expressed that the late Imam Khomeyni with his wise leadership foiled the evil plots and pressures brough about against Iran by the internal as well as foreign enemies.

Referring to the brave resistance during the 8 years (1980-1988) sacred defence of the Iranian people against the imposed war by the arrogant world, he underlined that the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing its ideas and principles insipired by Imam Khomeyni.

He also referred to the U.S. and Zionist poisoned propaganda against Iran and expressed that their main fear was because of the tendencies of the world Muslims towards Islam and Imam Khomeyni.

Replying to a question about whether any changes have taken place in the Iranian policies after the departure of the late Imam Khomeyni, Baqeri said that today under the leadership of Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i as the dearest and nearest person to the Imam Khomeyni's thoughts the Islamic Republic of Iran is continuing its way to realize the ideas and principles of the Islamic revolution.

Calling as baseless the Western allegations that Iran was engaged in gaining nuclear weapons Baqeri reiterated that Iran has signed the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) but it is the Zionist regime that has refused to sign the treaty and still is producing nuclear weapons while the arrogant world has done nothing against the zionist regime.

Turkish Diplomat on PKK, Relations With U.S.

NC0206190895 Tehran ABRAR in Persian
27 May 95 pp 2-12

[Report on interview with Ahmet Mithat Balkan, Turkish ambassador in Iran, by unidentified ABRAR correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Turkish Ambassador to Iran Ahmet Mithat Balkan has said that his government and people are friends of the government and people of Iran. He referred to the similarities between the two countries in religion and the populations and stressed their joint regional role, saying that the friendship and understanding between Iran and Turkey benefits the region and the world.

Speaking to ABRAR, he inferred that the press of the two countries plays an important role in forging constructive relations between them toward this end. He said that in Iran people consider Turkey affiliated to the United States. He added: Of course Turkey is a U.S. ally in NATO and a friend of the United States. However, this friendship is no reason for Ankara to be completely affiliated with Washington on all issues.

The Turkish ambassador to Iran added: For example, Turkey's interests in the region differ from those of the United States. Currently, the U.S. president has announced an embargo against Iran. However, the day after the announcement I went with your petroleum minister Aqazadeh to the airport. As you are well aware, after his visit to Ankara, Iran and Turkey signed an agreement on oil and gas.

He elaborated: This is not the policy of a dependent country. A country that would be dependent on the United States would not sign such an agreement the day after the imposition of an economic embargo against Iran. Two days after the U.S. decision was announced, the Turkish president declared: We do not agree with the U.S. viewpoint as we have longstanding historical ties with Iran.

Continuing, Balkan said: We are even against the U.S. embargo against Iraq, and we have said that this is not a realistic policy. In justification of Turkey's friendship with the United States, he said that this provides us with one advantage. We use this opportunity to tell the United States about its errors in the region. The United States wants us to follow its policies but we want to inform it of the interests of the region.

The Turkish ambassador then alluded to the trend of economic partnerships and mergers in the world. He said: If a decision is made in New York, it affects all the regions in the world. However to say that Turkey is affiliated with the United States and Israel is not correct.

In another part of his interview, Balkan touched on the adherence to religious observances in Turkey. He said: The people of Turkey are Muslims and no one should doubt this in the slightest. He added: There is no government that can take away a people's religion and I should add that even our government officials are Muslims.

He said: Government is separate from religion but the government and the people respect one another's views. The government's objective is not to wrest Islam from the Turkish people.

In answer to an objection by ABRAR, Balkan said: The Turkish Government agrees to an Islam that does not violate its laicist principles. He admitted that the Turkish Government principles differ from those of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He added: Laicist principles prevail in Turkey. In Turkey, the people chose the laicist system of government and within its framework the Muslims freely observe their various religious obligations and no one has the right to object.

ABRAR asked: Turkish Prime Minister Madame Tansu Ciller said in her rent visit to Washington: If Muslims take over power in Turkey, democratic principles will be endangered and the armed forces will stage a coup d'etat. What kind of respect is this for Turkish Muslims?

Balkan replied: Of course, this issue is being debated in Turkey, that is if the Muslims and principled ones [euphemism used for fundamentalists] assume power, the possibility is that democracy will be endangered.

ABRAR asked: If the Welfare Party were to gain power, should we assume that democracy will be endangered and the Armed Forces will allow themselves to stage a coup d'etat?

The Turkish ambassador answered: Since I did not hear the remarks by our prime minister personally, I cannot explain them. In any case, I believe that she did not mean the Welfare Party.

He reiterated: This controversy continues in Turkey; to what extent an Islamist government can conform with democracy, whether these two can be coordinated. There are some who believe this is not possible.

Balkan then explained his country's policy on the Turkish Kurds. He said: The Kurds and Turks exist amicably with one another. Currently 100 parliamentary deputies in Turkey are Kurds. Even Hikmet Cetin, the former foreign minister and deputy prime minister of Turkey, is a Kurd.

He added: Our problem is with the PKK (Workers' Party of Kurdistan) terrorists. Ours is not a war against Kurds but against terrorists. This was the reason for the entry of the Turkish armed forces into northern Iraq.

Without reference to the internal conditions in Turkey such as the non-development of Kurdish-inhabited regions, which assist in the PKK's activity, he said: The PKK emulates the communist ideology that is now obsolete in the world. Their aim is to segregate a part of Turkish territory as an independent country and they are not even content with that. They also want to separate a part of Iraq and of Iran. This is the minimum demand in their programs. If in such circumstances their stance is defended, they will be in an advantageous position. To attain their objectives, they kill the Kurds in southeastern Turkey and then claim that the Turkish Government forces killed them.

Balkan added: So far hundreds of women and children have been killed by the PKK. He rejected any talks with the PKK, saying: We will suppress them.

Until this juncture, this was more of an informal conversation, but he answered certain questions from ABRAR:

[ABRAR] After the Turkish Armed Forces' attack on northern Iraq, the Turkish Government authorities stated that we have attained all our objectives in the region and have destroyed the PKK bases. There was also mention of a security belt in northern Iraq similar to the one Israel has created in south Lebanon. However, after such remarks and the withdrawal of the Turkish forces this plan was shelved. Three days ago, your interior minister said: The PKK has once again set up its bases in northern Iraq and we might once again enter Iraqi territory. Is there such a possibility? Perhaps after such an attack, the PKK may once again set up bases in northern Iraq. Will you attack once again and how long will this continue?

[Balkan] When the Turkish forces entered Iraq we announced that as soon as we attain our objectives, we will withdraw in the shortest possible time from the region. Most of the European and Iranian publications did not believe this. Miscellaneous allegations were made and it was even stated that the Turkish Armed Forces may advance to Mosul and may set up a security belt in northern Iraq.

However, they observed that Turkey adhered to its promise. Turkey has consistently announced that due to a security and power vacuum in northern Iraq and to the pocket of unrest that has been created, we feel a sense of responsibility in that area. In other words, it means that we will not permit the PKK to establish its bases in northern Iraq and to act against us from there and kill our people.

Of course, the Armed Forces will enter the region to combat the PKK but not the people there. If the first time the Armed Forces entered the people suffered losses, we will compensate them. We do not have a war with the Kurdish or Iraqi people. Our target is the PKK. The recent remarks by our interior minister are not a new stance. The Turkish prime minister and all other officials have frequently stated that if necessary, Turkey will enter the region.

[ABRAR] You said that you will ensure security in northern Iraq at all costs. Is not one of the ways of doing so changing the Turkey-Iran border, which Turkish President Suleyman Demirel alluded to recently?

[Balkan] Of course, but there has been a misinterpretation in this regard. If we say that we are responsible for the security of northern Iraq, this does not mean that we will interfere in the lives of the people in the region or in their internecine wars. By ensuring security in northern Iraq, we mean that we will not allow the PKK the opportunity to set up bases there.

[ABRAR] Regarding the change of borders between the two countries... [ellipsis as published]

[Balkan] This is an important issue that we will address. When we say that we are responsible for the establishment of security in northern Iraq, this does not mean that we will interfere in rival factions there or their relations with the Iraqi Government. Of course, we are opposed to the suppression of Kurds by Saddam's government. For example, we opposed the incidents at Halabjah.

[ABRAR] We are not referring to the first time that the Turkish Foreign Ministry refuted this. I am referring to the second occasion when President Demirel repeated it.

[Balkan] See this cutting is an article from a Turkish newspaper just like your English newspaper. The Turkish president said in an interview with this newspaper: The border situation in the region, that is between Turkey and Iraq, has put us in a formidable situation and has made our work very difficult. He said that the demarcation of the border was not based on the geographical conditions or the needs of the people of the region.

At that time, there was a war between the Turks and the British and the latter wanted Turkey to be distanced from the oilfields. For this purpose they delineated the border division between the two countries. Thus it can be said that the present situation has been influenced by history. However, we do not have any territorial claims to Karkuk or any part of Iraq. The Turkish president implied that a minor change can be made with the concurrence of the two sides in some parts of the border.

[ABRAR] If Iraq opposes this, what then?

[Balkan] Of course, President Demirel had said that this is not a current issue but can be assessed in the future. In any case, the Turkish dissidents have played up this issue excessively and say that Ankara's objective is to occupy Mosul. Of course, we have declared that we do not have such an objective but no one believed us. We said that we will withdraw from northern Iraq but Turkey's stance was distorted. In fact, we currently have domestic problems and if we wish to become embroiled in northern Iraq, it would only add to our problems and this would not be right for us.

At present we have problems with Europe. They say that we are violating human rights and if we enter northern Iraq we will pit the EU against us and Iran will be against us. Will the Turkish policymakers act so carelessly? Our objective is that we do not have any war with anyone. We wish to tread the path of progress on the domestic level and outside the country we want the people of the region to make progress. We do not have any other objective.

[ABRAR] A few days ago, President Demirel accused the West of seeking to partition Turkey. What is your opinion on this and does such a danger really exist?

[Balkan] I will present to you the English text of President Demirel's remarks, which will answer your questions on this matter. All the issues that are of interest to you, including northern Iraq, Turkey's policy, and the West's performance were referred to in this interview. This is just so I do not have to interpret President Demirel's speech.

[ABRAR] Another question is about Iran-Turkish relations, especially in the aftermath of the U.S. embargo against Iran. Turkey expressed regret at this stance by the United States and announced its opposition to this action. Ankara even signed an oil and gas agreement with Tehran.

We received reports that a U.S. delegation intends to visit Ankara and to discuss relations between our two neighboring countries. My question is to what extent does Turkey consider its relations with Iran important as related to its regional strategy? In this regard, what will be Ankara's response to the U.S. request for it to join the embargo against Iran? In your opinion, will this U.S. action against Iran be successful?

[Balkan] Turkey has explained its stance on this issue that it is contiguous to Iran and has distinctive relations with it. Of course, we are also friends with the United States. Therefore, in view of these friendly relations, delegations are exchanged between the two countries and issues of mutual interest are discussed. Perhaps in these talks they will seek to motivate us to emulate their policy or perhaps we will persuade them to accept our viewpoint.

There is no need to be concerned about the visits by these delegations, as we have cordial and sincere relations with Iran. There should be no mistake about this. There is nothing to impede the relations between our two countries. We have very close cooperation with one another. Of course, it is possible that there may be allegations that the PKK has set up a base in Iran and you may claim that the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization (Monafeqin) has a base on Turkish soil. However, contacts are being made immediately and delegations are being exchanged and the issue is being discussed and resolved without any loss of time.

To this extent we have wonderful relations. However, regarding commercial issues, I should say these are not at this level. This is because there are certain problems that we are in the process of solving. Here we may mention the oil and gas agreement, which will be the turning point of our trade relations.

[ABRAR] With regard to the last part of our question, what is your opinion?

[Balkan] Of course, the United States has announced such an action against Iran. Its success needs the participation of all other countries in this embargo. The current trend indicates that so far the participation of other countries has been sparse.

[ABRAR] We have a question with regard to the transport of oil to Azerbaijan. In all there are four routes for conveying oil: By way of the Novorissisk port in Russia, via Batumi port in Georgia, through Armenia, and lastly through Iran. Here I may mention that Turkey has made efforts for the transfer of oil via Armenia, especially after the end of the Nagorno-Karabakh war.

It appears that the Western countries on principle do not believe in exporting Azerbaijan's gas through Iran, even though an economic survey has revealed that this would be the most economic and safe route for the transport of oil.

In any case, it appears that Turkey does not have a favorable stance on this issue. In the session last Sunday [21 May], which was held at the behest of the consortium in Istanbul, a Turkish company was also present (I do not know whether it was a government or private one). At this session it was decided that Azerbaijan's oil should not pass through Iran. I reiterate that it appears that Turkey has a negative view of the transit of Azerbaijan's oil through Iran and has made much effort to replace it with one of the other three options.

[Balkan] What do you mean by the actions on the part of Turkey?

[ABRAR] As you know, Turkey mentioned that after the Nagorno- Karabakh war Azerbaijani oil could pass through Armenia. This was also mentioned a year or two ago during the visit by the Armenian deputy foreign minister to Ankara.

[Balkan] The deputy foreign minister?

[ABRAR] Yes.

[Balkan] One cannot state that the extraction and transport of Azerbaijani oil is a very important project. [sentence as published] It requires technical study and other preliminary estimates. Of course, political objectives will also play a part in this framework. Prior to the preliminary assessment, voicing any kind of views would be a mistake. As I know, these studies and estimates are still underway.

[ABRAR] In the Istanbul session it was stated that Azerbaijani oil should not pass through Iran.

[Balkan] I only heard about the Istanbul session in the newspapers. However, as I am aware no definite decision has been made as the technical studies have not been completed. In any case, after the surveys and in the light of political perspectives, a definite decision will be made. Regarding the U.S. viewpoint, which opposes Iran's participation, Turkey can only express its opinions to the extent of its share in the consortium.

[ABRAR] Some Turkish publications have claimed that 30,000 of the country's soldiers have been deployed on Iran's border or that a PKK base has been set up in Iran. I wish to know your opinion about this.

[Balkan] I have not received any information on this and I do not know anything about it.

Daily Reports on Clash With Turkish PKK

LD0706100495 Tehran IRNA in English
0843 GMT 7 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, June 7, IRNA — An Iranian law enforcement personnel stationed in a post on Iran-Turkey border was shot dead by armed men of the Turkish opposition PKK [Kurdistan Workers Party] forces, the morning daily IRAN reported Wednesday [7 June].

The clash took place last Thursday night when an armed group attempted to enter Iran by passing through Turkish borders, the report further added.

Four PKK members were also killed in the clash, the Persian-language newspaper said.

Meanwhile, a Turkish daily Sunday wrote that in a meeting between Turkish and Iranian military officials, Turkey warned against presence of anti-Turkish guerrillas in Iran.

Declining to mention its source, the Istanbul-based daily said during the talks held on the joint border last week, the Turkish side called on Iran to confront with anti-Turkish forces in her territory.

At the end of the meeting, head of the Iranian delegation promised that presence of anti-Turkish opposition forces in Iran would be decisively confronted, the paper wrote.

The daily also made no reference to the name of head of the Iranian delegation or the venue of the meeting but said that Iran- Turkey joint commission will meet in Turkey in a near future.

Turkish media last month claimed that a number of anti-Turkish guerrillas had setteled in some parts of the Iranian territory. The claim was rejected by the Iranian authorities.

Ambassador in Lebanon Interviewed on Relations

NC0506140295 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
24 May 95 p 16

[Part one of a three-part interview with Homayun 'Alizadeh, ambassador to Lebanon, by unidentified ETTELA'AT correspondent in Lebanon; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] [ETTELA'AT] You mentioned democracy and change in Lebanon and the fact that the Zionist regime will not be able to make any headway in Lebanon. Will the future government in Lebanon permit the various Islamic trends that are actively engaged in the armed struggle against Israel under the name of the Islamic Resistance to continue their leading political and cultural opposition to the compromise [with Israel] and its effects?

Will this government adopt a Western-style democracy with a different approach to those trends that oppose the compromise? Will this government be secular in principle?

Most of the issues affecting Lebanon's future are related to the form of government to be established in Lebanon and what its approach will be to those who are opposed to the compromise. We are aware that this government emerged from a sort of sectarian understanding after the al-Ta'if accord. Will the future government base its policies on the parochial interests of the various sects or will it concentrate on national reconciliation in Lebanon?

['Alizadeh] Your question encompasses three topics, which I will attempt to touch on briefly.

First, as I mentioned earlier, there is an open, democratic climate prevailing in the Lebanese government and society. It is not some political or transient phenomenon that has been imposed on Lebanon. It is deeply rooted and intertwined in the structure of social, sectarian, religious, cultural, political and intrinsically in a Lebanese system. [passage omitted]

As to your second point, you alluded to the future system and the sectarian setup, the al-Ta'if accord could be viewed as a transitional arrangement for an interim period until such time as Lebanon can move from a sectarian to nonsectarian society and encompasses the various dimensions of the al-Ta'if accord.

If we look at various aspects of the sectarian setup in the Lebanese system, it stems from the same transitional phase. This accord envisages that a high-level committee will be set up; it is the obligation of parliament to set up this committee. This is a high-level committee which will be assigned to assess ways and means of ending all aspects of political sectarianism in the system. The Lebanese parliamentary speaker announced a few months ago that setting up this committee will be one of the residual duties of the speaker and the parliament. This committee will discuss what form the future Lebanese government should take. [passage omitted]

Half or more of Lebanon's society is comprised of Muslims; the other part consists of Christians. There are other religions as well, the role of which cannot be ignored by any political system.

This is where your third argument comes in about a secular system. We must discuss in detail what is implied by a secular system or government. It is not our place to discuss this on behalf of the Lebanese, but it can be said that there are various definitions and interpretations of the concept of a secular system. There are those who consider it antireligious—which it is not, but even the Western and European democratic experiment interprets it this way.

Unfortunately, some strive to propagate this interpretation in Lebanon for their political ulterior motives; at times they become more Catholic than the pope and put forth ideas that are not included even in the original definition. It is my perception of the Lebanese society that they wish to impose what they believe is a secular system—that is, an antireligious system—in Lebanon that would oppose religion.

However an antireligious system has no chance of gaining a foothold in Lebanon whether it is anti-Islamic or anti-Christian. Lebanese society will never permit such a system, which is against the religious values of society. This is clearly borne out by European democracies, where systems are secular but religious factions rule the countries. [passage omitted]

[ETTELA'AT] With regard to the Middle East compromise, there are certain circles that believe that a final compromise will take place and a new Middle East will emerge as a result of these developments and consequently we will witness a new set of social and cultural relations being forged.

In general how do you view the future of the trend of compromise after this current phase? What will its economic and political borders be and what will the characteristics and our perceptions of a so-called new Middle East like this be? What objectives will this new form pursue in the Middle East and in other countries of the region?

['Alizadeh] After the collapse of the Soviet Union, there was fundamental upheaval and we are in the throes of a transitional system on the international scene. The former bipolar system has disintegrated and a complete political set up has not been achieved since the collapse of the Soviet Union.

This is the main, real reason for most of the U.S. political pressures and moves on the international level. The Americans are seeking to steer the transition system toward a unipolar one, that is, they envision the future system to be a unipolar one. Their entire approach to the world and issues is geared to the consolidation of such a system.

However, such a system has not yet taken shape, even though in some cases there are signs of such a unipolar system evolving; but we also observe very strong signs of other elements on the international scene fighting the unipolar system.

This situation is reflected in the Middle East region which is being named a new Middle East similar to the new world order on the international scene. The new Middle East or the design for a new Middle East being propounded by the United States and Israel is in fact the translation of a new international system that they wish to duplicate on the Middle East scene. This concept of the unipolar system has Israel as its main axis and as the strategic ally of the United States which will treat the other countries of the region like second- and even third-rate citizens.

This is where the importance of our interpretation and definition of the Zionist regime, which we have always presented, is highlighted — that is, the Zionist regime is a racist one. A regime that acts on the basis of discrimination and segregation between itself and others. This attitude punctuates all of Israel's programs for the region. It speaks of the Arabs' money and manpower, but of the Israelis' intellect. This is the greatest insult to the nations of the region, that they should be accused of lacking culture, ideas, and wisdom or that they should be directed by Israel's mental prowess as if they were mere machines or the fuel which provides power to the machines. [passage omitted]

Knowledge Seen as Basis of Modernism

95LA0208A Tehran KIYAN in Persian
22 Jun-22 Aug 94 pp 2-5

[Article by Abdolkarim Sorush]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic clergy have accepted the industrial achievements of modernism more easily than they have accepted its philosophical, artistic, and moral achievements. They have been less receptive to the West's immodesty, nakedness, reckless films and novels, extreme, unrestrained, and questionable thinking and music, and its moral corruption, imperialism, and exploitation, than they have been of computers, telephones, aircraft, the bureaucratic system, the banks, and chemical drugs. No one has doubted the religious acceptability of telephones and computers, but there have been strong doubts about the permissibility of promoting extreme music and philosophy and notorious novels.

Today some intellectuals (scholars and Muslims) have come to believe that there is no difference between the West's industrial achievements and modern art and ethics, that all these have come from the same source and that the verdict is therefore the same for all of them. In other words, they are all parts and members of the same civilization with the same life and spirit, and therefore there is no justification for distinguishing between them.

Western civilization, the printing industry, photography, democracy, computers, aircraft, and chemical drugs have all come about together. In reality, all of these things are born together; each is associated with the other and cannot exist without it. The advent of the aircraft with its requirements will gradually summon the other industries and the related bureaucratic system, the mixing of men and women, and the weakening of traditional relationships and ethics. Therefore, that innocence and lack of danger initially seen in those products, from a more profound point of view, is nothing more than a form of deceptive naivet.

This view expresses our responsibility with regard to modernity as follows: you must either take all of it or reject all of it. According to them, taking some things and putting aside some other aspects of Western civilization (the negative and positive aspects) is a poorly considered thing to say and an unwise thing to do. They put us up against the history of the West, which is a huge entity and a productive and strong factory, all of whose products are produced side-by-side and with full interdependence. To not want one of the products would be the equivalent of shutting down the factory.

Modern wisdom sometimes supports this claim. It is said that this wisdom is responsible for modernity and that the only way to become modern is to get into this mind set, a mind set that has abandoned the world of myth and depends absolutely on its own encounters and judgment. It has given precedence to this world's habitations and life and has taken a hostile stance toward nature. It has redefined man and therefore brought him new rights, officially recognizing him just as he is. It has given experience priority over intuition and worship and has removed God from politics and life.

In science and technology, appearances are everything. It is for this reason that in their view, those nations who have not tied themselves closely to the history of the West and who have not acquired its mind set, though they may be generous buyers of the West's technology and science, have gone nowhere and have not become modern. They have become a mass of contradictions, each part disrupting the other. They have accomplished nothing other than wasting energy. They have lost tradition, become a wasteland, and gained nothing by renewing. They have forgotten society's former equilibrium and have not attained the new equilibrium.

A machine in the hands of an expert is a machine, just as a sword is a sword in the hands of a swordsman. Otherwise, a wagon full of weapons in the hands of a pacifist will only help the enemy. In the modern mind set, technology has not found its place with us and has therefore become barren and useless. If it is to truly become technology, it should have the other things that go with it. Under those conditions, its unchaste, irreligious, and immoral face will become clear. The same idea applies to social entities such as parliaments, parties, universities, presses, banks, courts, and other things. If all of these are made manifest in their true historic sense, their anti-traditional effects will become clear.

The result of considering computers, aircraft, telephones, printing, newspapers, parliaments, political parties, and other things religiously permissible was that these things in our inexperienced hands, in use by our inexperienced minds, were useless and did not show their essential characteristics (which involve creating a society of scholars around them). If they had not been considered religiously permissible, their use would have been strongly questioned and they would not have been considered so harmless and innocent. The new imperialism and modern morals and art were wider and more reckless and were therefore more afflicted, but a careful inquiry would also link technology to them.

This sweeping analysis, which is clearly derived from Hegel and Spengler, has recently been reinforced by the reasoning of the post-modernists. These people, by attacking reason and summarizing its history, have portrayed everything, including knowledge, to be the result of power, the times, and society, and they have made it subject to almost all other criteria. According to Richard Rorty, if reason was the god of modernism, in the post-modernist period there is no god. The idea that knowledge is not free of values is being promoted by the pessimists, the post-modernists, and those who subscribe to the Frankfurt school. The myth that knowledge is free of values has lost its power and been exposed.

Each one of these things has its evidence, from the experimental to the philosophical. The philosophy of phenomenology is Hegel's idea that everything reasonable is real and everything real is reasonable, and therefore everything that has happened in Western civilization has necessity. It holds that these things must be seen and recognized by the wise as having happened out of necessity and as the products of fundamentals (in Hegel's view, arising from the expansion and contraction of the absolute consciousness). The expert perspective on phenomenology regards knowledge with suspicion, in a utilitarian way or from the point of view of a social entity, and does not view it as a way of depicting reality. Experimental phenomenology considers the new knowledge to be a destroyer of nature, a disrupter of the ecological balance, the source of man-killing weapons, or seeks in it the origins of cultural assumptions, ideological positions, and practical and applied problems.

Yes, they have put knowledge in the same category with morality, art, and technology. Just as they reject modern morality and art, they also condemn and revile knowledge. This reasoning has sweetened the bitterness of the historical encounters and relations Muslims and people in the East have had with Western modernism for many suffering and tormented people. In their zeal for opposing the West, they want to denounce modernism in any case, and it is so much the better to do that with reasoning taken from the foreigners themselves! This is what it is, and this is what is circulating, at least theoretically, among some intellectuals; there are few thinkers and writers in the Third World who do not deal in these things.

It is a strange paradox, however, that despite all this theoretical denunciation and vilification, all the nations of the Third World, and especially the Muslim nations, have kept their universities open to these sciences and their factories open to these technologies and are eagerly absorbing and devouring these new achievements. Not one of those intellectuals has advanced a new proposal in science or technology; they have produced no new procedure for understanding nature; they have not shown a new way for conducting trade with the outside world. They have not proposed a new model of politics and they have never ceased to criticize (indeed, to insult) modern science and technology. Yet they have sometimes used the discoveries of these sciences to validate religious knowledge and teachings or the proofs of the creator.

The issue of development is now a big issue in the Third World, and it is very clear that development revolves around knowledge; the place that takes no pleasure in knowledge will not take pleasure in development either. This very development is the full mirror of the history of the West. The present West is the child of its history. For this reason, those seeking development seem to have nothing more to do than to enter into the history of the West—nothing more. It is said that Japan and South Korea have become Westernized and that any country wishing to develop must follow the same path that they followed, if it is not too late.

Entering into the history of the West, however, is the very thing that takes our ethnic, national, cultural, and religious identity away from us. Therefore the conflict between identity and development and the matter of the crisis of identity has become the mother of all problems. Are we to turn to development and lose our identity, or shall we keep our identity and ignore development? Or is there a third path that will give us both?

This is a thumbnail sketch of the intellectual position of the Third World philosophical faction that opposes modernism. The political thinkers, who place greater emphasis on Western imperialism, are another story. These people consider all the harm done to the people of the East to be the result of oppression by Westerners. They never ask themselves even once what happened to make the East the object of imperialism and what happened that those in the West found the power of imperialism.

In other words, they have little to say about internal factors. They put most of the blame on foreign criminals. Now, before taking any further steps, it would be good to mention here several important points pertaining to the issues we have briefly discussed.

The first point is that the idea of the organic interdependence between the components of modernism, claimed by those who take the comprehensive view, has never been proven or empirically demonstrated. This is a big claim to say that modern entities only work inside a modern aggregate, and it is also a big claim to say that all modern entities have the common characteristic that they are born of Western society and are suitable for it and that they do not work or fit into any other society. It is strange, however, that no suitable evidence has been presented for these claims. Yes, there is a literary unity among the parts of modern society, its parts are profoundly connected, and they have become so wound together in history that taken together they seem to form a single meaningful text.

However, 1) considering all the parts and words inherent and necessary and saying that none of them can be changed, 2) seeing the entire text as being without contradiction, 3) the idea that the totality will be altered by changing one part (which is required by that claim), and 4) the requirement to take on all of them or none, are formidable views requiring great fearlessness to espouse.

Even for a being such as a sheep, whose body has definite organic unity, the wool can be sheared and the milk can be extracted. This says nothing of thinner and more diluted unities.

It is true that Kant or Hegel are philosophers of modernity, but the question is: Did they create modernity or are they themselves products of modernity? Of course the Hegelian overview considers modernity (like the spirit behind the phenomena) to be responsible for the appearance of those two curiosities and therefore considers them essential, but one must really ask, if there had been no Kant, Hegel, Newton, Hume, Copernicus, Descartes, Leibnitz, Rousseau, Montesquieu, Walter, or Darwin, would modernity still have been achieved? To consider their appearance inevitable and predestined and to subscribe to the idealistic inevitability of history is an idea whose wisdom is not evident and for which there is no proof. Indeed, one may reason strongly against it, just as some of the great Western philosophers have done. It is true that we are now suffering the penalties of our history while they are reaping the benefits of theirs, but to consider history preordained and inevitable (and it is not clear who is ordaining it) is a claim without evidence that is indeed false.

A second point is that post-modernist reasoning is of no benefit for understanding (at least not for Muslims seeking understanding). Yes, that reasoning considers science and technology as being preceded by cultural and conceptual understandings and does not consider any science to be without its presuppositions. First of all, however, the fact that the sciences have their presuppositions does not itself diminish their accuracy because the presuppositions themselves could be accurate, universal, and acceptable. Moreover, all presuppositions are not values subject to cultural relativity. Among them are many philosophical fundamentals that are not value-laden and may be accurate and logically acceptable. Third, that reasoning would connect all knowledge, including religion, with relativity, and this would not satisfy the conscience of any religious believer.

There is no need to sit on the horns of a dilemma. To destroy modernity, there is no need to use a blade that would also cut into religious law. As for those religious believers who took comfort in the idea that empirical science is suspicious, subscribed to the Frankfurt school, regarded empirical science as being mixed with cultural values, or saw in it signs of political conservatism and the like, when they see that these schools of thought consider religion to be much more afflicted, baseless, fickle, and reactionary than petrochemical science, their sense of contentment will quickly disappear. They do not consider empirical science to be neutral, but for what reason should they consider it neutral? Their work is deconstruction. Once they saw religion as having been deconstructed by modernity and were satisfied with that, they deconstructed modernity itself. One cannot make a silk purse for religion and spirituality out of the sow's ear of modernity. The water in this well is too contaminated to save someone who is already dying of thirst.

A third point is that not considering science to be neutral and viewing it as the necessary product, the outcome, and the mere servant of society and history without giving it any independence or stability is a view that is at least incompatible with the views of Muslim philosophers and intellectuals. One may not be committed on the one hand to Islamic identity and on other hand be committed to views that clearly negate the identity of Islam, viewing the knowledge of each civilization as being tailor-made for that civilization and incompatible or inappropriate for other civilizations and cultures. Muslim philosophers clearly drew knowledge from other cultures and were delighted to do so. In no way did they regard knowledge as being like the ethics, customs, or habits of other peoples, condemned to those moral values. They saw knowledge as something that could be taken from hypocrites as well ("take knowledge, even if it comes from the hypocrites"). They sought knowledge everywhere, like something lost, and adopted it ("knowledge is the goal; the believer takes it where he finds it").

Although history and society have a definite effect on knowledge, they do not affect its essence, and it is this very essence that is desired and loved by the learned. The most disturbing judgment, in which is seen the unsupported tendency to take the overall view, is this same judgment that seems to say that knowledge, like technology, art, practices, and customs, is a one-dimensional being whose entire existence is borrowed from its social and historical causes, whose entire content is precisely its very foreign existence, and which is incompatible with another society.

This judgment, however, is incorrect. Knowledge is a two-dimensional being: It has the character of its existence, and it has the character of its essence. Its existence depends on society, civilization, and culture, but not its essence. Its existence (its face) has a cause, but its essence (its content) has a reason. The fact that learned people become attached to special problems, strive to untie specific knots, pursue special fields of knowledge, build universities, write books, teach, and receive prizes and salaries (characteristics of the existence of knowledge) has its social and historical causes, but the answers to their questions, the results of their research, and the procedures in their work within the limits of human weaknesses and strengths and within the limits of experimental errors are not subject to external factors.

These things have special independence because of the discovery of what is real and the relating of what is known. In other words, knowledge is a triangle with three sides: 1) questions; 2) answers; 3) procedures. Of these three sides, the first is produced by historic, social, and cultural causes, but not the other two. The answers to questions and the procedures for discovery are not relative, otherwise we would become caught in the relativity of knowledge destruction. Customs, practices, art, and technology do not deal with something else, and their conformity with reality or lack of it have nothing to do with their right to exist. They are not images of reality; they are themselves realities. This is not so for knowledge. What civilization turns away from true reports that conform to reality and does not consider them suitable for itself? What civilization does not strive to complete this information?

Realism in knowledge, which has also been the belief and practice of Muslim thinkers, puts knowledge in a place of distinction that has nothing to do with the other parts of civilization. If we are not to be utilitarians, localists, or historians in knowledge, we must take a realistic position. This is realism, and the special distinction of knowledge is this very thing. Realism has no meaning in the realm of customs, practices, values, art, and technology. These things are opaque; they have no place other than to be special parts and to be suitable for civilization. Knowledge, however, because of the quality of realism, breaks down the walls of civilization. It finds the right to sit at everyone's table, and indeed it calls everyone to its table. It is here that we are able to get to the heart of the issue and the main point of this article.

Yes, modern knowledge is both the child of modernity and the West's modern civilization, but this child is essentially different from the other offspring of modernity. This is a child who leaves its mother immediately after birth and casts the shadow of its thesis over all peoples, local and foreign. Even if no member or element of the modern world is compatible with our culture, religion, or national identity, even if modern European customs, values, art, and industry are suitable for them and are disruptive to our identity, the same of course is not true of the new knowledge. Its world-inclusiveness, internationality, and quality of breaking down walls are such that it adapts to everyone and does not remain under anyone's exclusive control. The criticism, refinement, and censorship of knowledge is another story.

The issue is the acceptability of the principle of knowledge, not the unquestioning acceptance of all its judgments. The issue is that even if that reasoning about understanding civilizations and taking the comprehensive view is correct, it is a tool that is not useful for finding knowledge. The issue is that if we are to benefit from and have a share in modernity, that share is in the knowledge of Westerners, which is the most objective manifestation of modern wisdom and the most accepting of criticism. We may (if we are able to) ignore the rest or consider it unacceptable.

Even if what they say is correct, that taking some parts of the West and leaving the rest is not possible and it is unreasonable because the parts are all connected, this judgment applies and is true only with regard to the non-knowledge components. Knowledge is an exception to this judgment; it has a special place of distinction. It also seems that in that unfounded judgment itself, as we have said, there are dozens of shortcomings and defects. The great sin of the modern analysts of culture is that they have lumped all the parts of culture together, making no distinction between its knowledge and non-knowledge components. Let us forget about those ignorant people who have even separated logic into Western and non-Western divisions, making clear their own illogical thinking in so doing.

Modern learning therefore can and must be adopted. These things may be separated from the totality of the West without any fear. We have discussed why this can be done; now we will talk about why it must be done.

As to why knowledge must be sought, we must first mention the desirability of knowledge itself, the beauty of the nature and truth which are shown in the mirror of knowledge; second, it is the path of all wise men and men of knowledge who seek knowledge even in China and even from hypocrites; it is advised by those who practice religion, who consider knowledge to be the goal of the believer, and who have issued decrees in search of it; third, the life of today's people is intertwined with knowledge, which has great capacity to solve the material and learning problems of human beings; and fourth, there is the need to equip the Muslim world with new weapons (material and intellectual) and the pride and power of today's two worlds. All these things require that Muslims turn to this knowledge and seek aid from it in understanding themselves, society, and history and in solving their problems.

It is clear that this great and magnificent guest will not come to this house unless it is first swept and cleaned and that this colorful redolent plant will not grow in our soil without preparation. It is also clear that these preparations must take two forms: cause and reason; that is, both life and the mind must be made to adapt to knowledge. Both the conditions and background of knowledge and the conditions and background of life must be prepared. If knowledge has not yet been born among us or has not taken up residence here, it is because both the mind and the eye have been closed to it. One has been the enemy of its essence and the other has been the enemy of its existence. All these things are true, but if this washing and sweeping are to be done, they must be done for this guest. If the hand of the one selected must be taken, the hand of knowledge must be grasped. If politics, government, the economy, and morality are to be put into new order, everyone must adapt himself with and for knowledge. One must begin with knowledge and one must move forward in step with it.

Beginning with the policies of the people in the West (as was done by those who wanted the Constitutional revolution), choosing advanced and ultra-modern technology (as is done by many heedless people), the wholesale adoption of their culture, art, and morality while beating up one's own ethnic, religious, and cultural identity (as is done by those who have lost themselves), or ignorantly and fatalistically worshipping history, philosophizing, waiting passively, submitting to the Western storm, and waiting for the arrival of its age (as is done by those who invented the term "plagued by the West")—none of these things will solve the problems of backwardness, crisis, and the failure to develop.

These things are opinions. They are not a good beginning. They have not solved a single problem, and they are creating dozens of other problems for us. They have gone through their historical test and have been instructive for us. Science, however, (with its current and aggregate identity), is a product of knowledge which is both praiseworthy and obtainable and which can be both criticized and rejected. Because of its essence, it is not the special property of any people. Because of its way of showing reality, it is such that no wise person rejects it. Because of its ability to solve problems, no person in pain will turn away from it. Knowledge and prosperity are now so linked together in their fates that one cannot be envisioned without the other. It is a lamp that will show the remainder of the path when lighted. If a way forward must be opened, one must begin here.

I have made a point in love to you, behold, do not erase it. Otherwise, when you look, be outside the circle.

Pakistan

Iranian Petroleum Minister Pays Official Visit

Arrives for Refinery, Pipeline Talks

LD0606123595 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i arrived in Islamabad, Pakistan, today, and was met by the country's Industries and Production Minister. Our correspondent reports:

[Unidentified correspondent] Our country's oil minister will hold talks with his Pakistani counterpart and Pakistan's industries and production minister about a plan to set up a joint refinery in Sindh Province, and also for laying a pipeline to carry Iranian gas to Pakistan. [passage omitted]

In connection with the provision of finance for these two projects, our country's petroleum minister said:

[Begin Aqazadeh-Kho'i recording] Concerning gas, what requires financing is the laying of approximately 1,600 km of pipeline between Iran and Pakistan. Fortunately, in this connection, numerous international companies have announced that they are ready, and one of the central topics for our discussions with Pakistan today will be to invite these companies so that a comprehensive international consortium, capable of securing the necessary finances, can be created to lay this pipeline.

Concerning the refinery, on the basis of forecasts already carried out, 20 percent of its expenditure will be in cash, and will be borne by the two sides, that is, by Iran and Pakistan; and, 80 percent of this expenditure will be financed — and we are optimistic about this considering the progress achieved in talks conducted at an international level. [sentence as heard] [end recording]

Discusses 'Threadbare Projects'

BK0606142895 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1300 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] An Iranian delegation led by the petroleum minister, Mr. Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i, called on the federal minister for petroleum and natural resources, Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan, in Islamabad today.

They reviewed the progress so far made with regard to proposed gas pipeline projects for supply of gas to Pakistan and expressed their satisfaction. They discussed threadbare projects, related issues, and the joint committee's report to arrive at an agreed solution so that work on the project could be started. The meeting was informed about the latest status of the project. The joint committee has shortlisted the companies which have shown their interest for undertaking the project. The tenders for expression of interest would be floated by the middle of next month.

Mr. Anwar Saifullah Khan said the Iranian minister's visit reflected Iran's interest and commitment to have closer brotherly relations which would be further cemented through enhanced economic cooperation.

Meets Bhutto, Sees 'No Obstacles'

LD0606173295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i met the Pakistani prime minister today and submitted a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to her.

In his meeting with the Pakistani prime minister, which took place this afternoon in Islamabad, our country's oil minister announced: The Islamic Republic of Iran has studied the joint construction of a refinery in the Sindh Province of Pakistan. The Iranian side sees no obstacles preventing the continuation of this project.

According to Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i, the Iranian Government has approved the agreement on the formation of a joint company between the two countries for the construction of the refinery and has allocated the budget required for this project.

At that meeting, our country's oil minister submitted a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Pakistani prime minister and briefed her on the progress made so far in the work of the joint refinery and the construction of a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan.

The Pakistani prime minister for her part expressed satisfaction over the progress in the gas project and called on the ministers and experts of the two countries to begin negotiations on the price of the piped gas. Benazir Bhutto announced her country's agreement in principle for the extension of the gas pipeline through Pakistani territory to India and called for an increase in Pakistani imports of Iranian oil.

According to a source close to our country's visiting delegation, the Islamic Republic of Iran currently provides around 20,000 barrels of Pakistan's daily oil needs.

Our country's oil minister also today discussed the sale of 1.6 billion cubic feet of Iranian gas to Pakistan. Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i also met Mr. Shahid Hasan Khan, economic adviser to the Pakistani prime minister, today and discussed the funding of this project, which will be between the sources of the Persian Gulf and Karachi.

Gives Details of Negotiations

LD0606210295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 6 Jun 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A verbal message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan was conveyed to her during a meeting between Iranian Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh-Kho'i and the Pakistani prime minister today. Oil Minister Aqazadeh-Kho'i spoke to our correspondent in Islamabad moments ago and talked about the outcome of his meeting with the Pakistani prime minister and the first round of negotiations between the oil ministers of Iran and Pakistan. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Aqazadeh-Kho'i, you had intense negotiations with your Pakistani counterpart today concerning oil and natural gas cooperation between Iran and Pakistan. Can you inform the listeners of our midnight news bulletin about the outcome of the negotiations? Also, what did you discuss with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. As you pointed out, we discussed the gas pipeline and the joint Iran-Pakistan refinery with Pakistani officials. Concerning the gas pipeline, its length will be around 1,600 km, starting at (?Asaluyeh), which is one of the gas fields of the southern Persian Gulf, extending to Pakistan.

Pakistan needs 1.6 billion cubic feet of gas per day. It has been decided to set up a consortium to invest in the gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan. A number of foreign companies have expressed an interest in investing in this project. Six companies have expressed an interest so far. We have decided to send invitations signed by myself and the Pakistani oil minister to these companies in the near future and open negotiations with them. The ways of investment and transport of Iranian gas to Pakistan will become clear in these negotiations.

Concerning the joint refinery and considering that we have had a lot of activity in this field for the past few years, fortunately these series of talks are the final set of negotiations. We think the practical work of the refinery's construction will begin soon after the end of our visit.

The refinery will have a capacity of around 120,000 barrels [not further specified]. It is being designed solely for Iranian crude. Of course, with the concessions given by the Pakistani Government, we expect at least a return of 24 percent on our investment, which is a very sound investment for our country. These two issues were also discussed at length with Benazir Bhutto.

The talks will continue tomorrow between Iranian and Pakistani ministers.

[Correspondent] Did the Pakistani side call for an increase in the import of Iranian oil during your talks?

[Aqazadeh-Kho'i] Yes, this matter was raised during the meeting with Benazir Bhutto, and we responded positively. In this context, a delegation from Pakistan will visit Iran to discuss an increase in the export of Iranian crude oil to Pakistan. Currently we sell 20,000 barrels of crude oil to Pakistan per day. They expressed an interest in increasing this amount. [end recording]

Minister Denies Army Deployment in Karachi

BK0606095095 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 6 Jun 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad (PPI) — The federal government has no intention whatsoever to call the army in aid of civil administration in Karachi. Federal minister for information and broadcasting Khalid Ahmad Khan Kharal told reporters at a briefing here in the Parliament House on Monday [5 June] that there was no proposal under consideration of the government in this respect.

Responding to volley of questions by reporters about Karachi situation, he reiterated government's policy on the issue of political dialogue saying that "although our doors are open for a dialogue on Karachi situation, yet we will not negotiate with the terrorists".

We will never compromise on Pakistan's security by talking with the terrorists", Kharal said and added that everyone who was carrying a gun in his hands and killing innocent people was a terrorist and "we will not spare such people".

Asked as to why the ruling party was dubbing MQM (A) [Muhajir Qaumi Movement - Altaf faction] Senators as terrorists as nothing was wrong with them when they had voted for President Sardar Farooq Leghari in the presidential elections, the Information minister, who apparently had no answer to the question. [sentence as published] just repeated the previous argument saying that "we are ready to talk with those who are not terrorists. [sentence as published]

Responding to a question, he said that Altaf Hussain should have the courage to return to Pakistan and face the charges framed against him. "The charges are there and onus is on him to clear his position," he remarked.

The minister pointed out that cases of terrorism were registered against Altaf Hussain when Nawaz Sharif was at the helm of affairs at the centre. He said Nawaz Sharif handed over Sindh to the army and showed torture cells of MQM on television.

Criticising Nawaz Sharif for pursuing what he called double standards, Kharal said the leader of the opposition was now issuing clean chit to Altaf Hussain and was saying that Altaf was not a terrorist.

He said a comprehensive policy, envisaging far reaching socio- economic and administrative measures, was in the process of being implemented to resolve the prevailing crisis in Karachi.

Asked if the cabinet had full-fledged discussion on Karachi situation in its Monday's meeting, Kharal said the issue was not formally taken up in the meeting due to the absence of Sindh Chief Minister. He said it was not possible to discuss any provincial matter in the cabinet without inviting the concerned chief minister.

He said the Karachi situation was informally discussed before beginning of the cabinet meeting was also held Sunday evening and discussed threadbare the Karachi situation as well as the measures being taken to improve law and order situation in the violence plagued city.

Daily Urges Leghari To Stop Karachi 'Operation'

BK0706085795 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 5 Jun 95 p 10

[Editorial: "The Operation Against the MQM — the President Should Restrain the Prime Minister"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The federal government has issued a "red alert" (state of maximum readiness) order to all security agencies throughout the country. Security and defense agencies have intensified the sentinel and security steps at airports, railway stations, and important government buildings, including Parliament House, President House, Prime Minister House, provincial assembly buildings, Bilawal House [Bhutto's residence], Al Murtaza [Bhutto's ancestral house] and other important buildings as well as telephone, gas, and power installations. Press reports say that the step has been taken by the government in view of the ongoing massive operation against the Muhajir Qaumi Movement [MQM]. The federal and Sindh provincial governments have already launched "Operation Cleanup" against the MQM. More than 11,000 MQM workers and sympathizers have been arrested on charges of terrorism.

Patriotic circles have been expressing concern over the manner in which the president and the prime minister have been carrying out a campaign against the MQM for the past week. They fear that the government is going to begin a major operation against the MQM. Their fear is substantiated by the press reports on the arrest of 11,000 MQM workers and "Operation Cleanup." The security steps taken by the government also hint at a major operation. Under these security steps, the movements of the president and the prime minister will be restricted; chief ministers too will attend the least number of functions, and planes and helicopters carrying very important persons will not fly on regularly scheduled routes.

Prime Minister Bhutto met President Leghari on 3 June at President House and discussed the Karachi situation with him. No one else was present during the meeting. Press reports say that the prime minister informed the president that she has ordered "effective action" against the MQM leadership, which is expected after 15 June. The steps being taken by the federal government in view of the situation in Karachi indicate that the prime minister is trying to substantiate her position that the MQM is a terrorist organization and to convince the people that the operation which is being carried out, or which is to be carried out, is not only justified but necessary.

We cannot but express concern over the proposed operation against the MQM. We cannot think of supporting terrorism or terrorists either. We believe that the Karachi situation is dangerous for the country's economy as well as defense and integrity. If such a situation persists for a long time, it will only increase the dangers to the country and make them more serious. We said in these columns yesterday that opposition leader Mian Nawaz Sharif, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan and other prominent leaders feel that talks should be held with the MQM. It means that leaders of almost all parties except the Pakistan People's Party do not consider the MQM to be a terrorist organization. They prescribe political consultation as a solution for the Karachi problem. Only the government is terming the MQM as a terrorist organization. The prime minister, however, does not want to file a case against this party in the Supreme Court either. Her resolve in this regard reveals that she has decided to use the government's power against the MQM. She has also informed the president that she has given the "green signal" to start the operation.

We cannot resist expressing the apprehension that such an "operation" will not bring about the desired results in Sindh. Our history testifies that we will have to face very dangerous and unforgettable consequences from any such operation. Talking to newsmen in Lahore on 3 June, opposition leader Nawaz Sharif too expressed the apprehension that the government's steps in Karachi will accrue nothing but devastation. He said that his apprehension should be considered as a "warning" and the nation should come forward to play its collective role. The opposition leader's remarks indicate the delicate nature of the situation. It calls for a step to be taken with the consensus of the country's people and political parties.

We would like to request the president to restrain the government from such an operation because as a holder of that position he is the custodian of the interests of the country and the nation. The president should also keep in mind that only the prime minister or her party has "supported" such an operation; no other political leader supported it. All of them emphasized the need for consultation. The president should exert his influences and not only ensure the holding of consultations to resolve the Karachi crisis, but also take effective steps for its success. The president had himself been supporting consultations; he should continue to move in that direction.

Editorial Views Assembly Debate on Karachi

BK0706115595 Karachi DAWN in English 7 Jun 95 p 12

[Editorial: "Mere Sound and Fury"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The two-day National Assembly debate on Karachi could have shed light on the factors contributing to the disturbed conditions in the city and helped formulate ideas as to the effective handling of the situation by the government. However, it did nothing of the sort. Both the treasury benches and the opposition used it as an occasion for some acrimonious — and at times scurrilous — exchanges. With scant regard for the misery and hardship faced by the people of Karachi day after day, each side indulged in verbal excesses, trying to paint the other black. In the process, the whole exercise was turned into a slanging match, with members from the opposing sides frequently hitting each other below the belt, and generally exposing themselves as being singularly insensitive to the plight of the people of Karachi. In most of the speeches, there was no more than a passing concern for the mounting death toll in Karachi and the ham-handed manner in which the law enforcement agencies have been dealing with the situation.

Although the minister of state for law and justice had promised an open and constructive debates on a matter to which the government "accorded the highest priority", interior minister Nasirullah Khan Babar, speaking in the Senate, demonstrated the same inflexibility of attitude which has been manifest in all of government's recent pronouncements on the question of a political initiative for resolving the crisis. He also chose to recall the controversial "Agartala Conspiracy" to suggest as if a similar sinister move was behind the unrest and violence in Karachi. Nothing could be more far-fetched and unconvincing. The federal minister for law, justice and parliamentary affairs claimed that the Karachi situation had two dimensions — political and subversive — but gave no indication as to how those regarded as guilty of terrorism would be distinguished from the other categories. Minister for special education Dr Sher Afghan delivered a fatwa against the MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] when he said that the Holy Quran imposed death penalty on those causing fasad (mischief) — only to be told by a Maulana that he was misquoting the relevant verse of the Holy Book. The leader of the opposition, Mr Nawaz Sharif, did no more than present a charge sheet against the government and accused if of pushing Karachi into a "dark tunnel". Practically nothing that was said during the two days of the debate on Karachi could be deemed to have served any useful purpose — either in terms of enlightenment or the exposition of a new policy line for resolving the crisis in Karachi.

Perhaps to regain the confidence of the people, in the handling of the situation, the Sindh government has made it known that it was directing the law enforcement agencies to exercise restraint and moderation. At a high-level meeting on Monday [5 June], it decided to ask the police and the Rangers to desist from making indiscriminate arrests and aim their drive only against criminals and those indulging in arson and acts of terrorism. It is obvious that by the crude methods employed by the law enforcement agencies in their siege-and-hunt operations in various localities, they have only added to the prevailing sense of alienation among the people. Public resentment on this score has also encouraged the lawless elements to target the Rangers and the police personnel for a series of attacks lately. However, by itself, the directive would not attain much unless it is accompanied by a sustained effort to create conditions for a meaningful dialogue between the government and the MQM. Since much of the trouble in Karachi stems from political disaffection and economic and other grievances, any pacification process has to be based on an understanding between the government and the acknowledged representatives of the people.

There should indeed be no delay in exploring ways and means of initiating talks for restoring peace and stability to a city which has suffered so much in the recent months. Should such an initiative be taken, the MQM must be expected to reciprocate by advising its activists not to resort to violence or pressure tactics of any kind.

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